

BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

October 2021

How is venous thromboembolism related to bipolar disorder?

Venous thromboembolism is a disorder that includes deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. A deep vein thrombosis occurs when a blood clot forms in a deep vein, usually in the lower leg, thigh, or pelvis. Swelling, redness, and pain are some of the symptoms of deep vein thrombosis. A pulmonary embolism occurs when a clot breaks loose and travels through the bloodstream to the lungs. A pulmonary embolism can cause sudden chest pain and shortness of breath.

What is the evidence for comorbid venous thromboembolism?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds people with bipolar disorder had small, significantly higher risk of venous thromboembolism, deep vein thrombosis, and pulmonary embolism, but not fatal venous thromboembolism when compared to people without bipolar disorder.



NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about bipolar disorder or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

For more information see the technical table

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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