



Bipolar Spectrum Disorders: Longitudinal Factors Associated with Risk and Improvement

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Message from the Guest Editors

Bipolar disorder (BD) is a psychiatric illness that usually onsets before adulthood, affects on average 2% of the population, and is associated with high rates of suicidality, Substance Use Disorder, functional impairment, and morbidity. Thus, it is important to identify the factors associated with the course and outcome of BD. In the past decades of clinical research, we have learned much about the effects of variables ascertained at study intakes on the course of BD. Overall, poor prognosis has been associated with lifetime family history of BD and SUD, individual early childhood BD onset, history of exposure to negative life events (e.g., abuse), severe mood symptoms, suicidality, psychosis, comorbid disorders (e.g., anxiety disorders), lower socioeconomic status, and reduced psychosocial functioning. Papers addressing the topic of BD and related conditions are invited for this Special Issue, especially those utilizing a longitudinal research design, and focus on providing new insights on the course of BD.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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