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PSYCHIATRY ACADEMY

# Pediatric Bipolar Disorder

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# Disclosures

Dr. Janet Wozniak has recently received consultation fees from Bristol Myers Squibb and Otsuka.

She has received research support from Demarest Lloyd, Jr. Foundation, the Baszucki Brain Research Fund, Johnson and Johnson, McNeil, Merck/Schering-Plough, Pfizer, and Shire as well as the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) of the National, Institutes of Health (NIH) and PCORI.

She is the author of the book, “Is Your Child Bipolar” published May 2008, Bantam Books.

Her spouse receives royalties from UpToDate; consultation fees from Emalex, Noctrix, Disc Medicine, Haleon, Alexza , Azurity and research support from Merck, American Regent, the RLS Foundation, and the Baszucki Brain Research Fund. In the past, he has received honoraria, royalties, research support, consultation fees or speaker’s fees from: Otsuka, Cambridge University Press, Advance Medical, Arbor Pharmaceuticals, Axon Labs, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Cantor Colburn, Covance, Cephalon, Eli Lilly, FlexPharma, GlaxoSmithKline, Impax, Jazz Pharmaceuticals, King, Luitpold, Novartis, Neurogen, Novadel Pharma, Pfizer, SanofiAventis, Sepracor, Sunovion, Takeda, UCB (Schwarz) Pharma, Wyeth, Xenoport, Zeo



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Can children really have bipolar disorder?



# Pediatric bipolar disorder affects a small percentage of youth (1-3%)

## Lifetime Prevalence of Mental Disorders in U.S. Adolescents: Results from the National Comorbidity Survey Replication-Adolescent Supplement (NCS-A)

Kathleen Ries Merikangas, Ph.D., Jian-ping He, M.Sc., Marcy Burstein, Ph.D., Sonja A. Swanson, Sc.M., Shelli Avenevoli, Ph.D., Lihong Cui, M.Sc., Corina Benjet, Ph.D., Katholiki Georgiades, Ph.D., Joel Swendsen, Ph.D.

**Objective:** To present estimates of the lifetime prevalence of DSM-IV mental disorders with and without severe impairment, their comorbidity across broad classes of disorder, and their sociodemographic correlates. **Method:** The National Comorbidity Survey-Adolescent Supplement NCS-A is a nationally representative face-to-face survey of 10,123 adolescents aged 13 to 18 years in the continental United States. DSM-IV mental disorders were assessed using a modified version of the fully structured World Health Organization Composite International Diagnostic Interview. **Results:** Anxiety disorders were the most common condition (31.9%), followed by behavior disorders (19.1%), mood disorders (14.3%), and substance use disorders (11.4%), with approximately 40% of participants with one class of disorder also meeting

**2.9%** Pediatric Bipolar in Study of 10,000+ US Adolescents  
**1.8%** Pediatric Bipolar Disorder in Meta-Analysis of International Studies  
**8.7%** ADHD

Acad. Child Adolesc. Psychiatry, 2010;49(10):980-989. Key Words: epidemiology, adolescents, mental disorders, National Comorbidity Survey, correlates

## THE JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY

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**Results:** The overall rate of bipolar disorder was 1.8% (95% CI, 1.1%–3.0%). There was no significant difference in the mean rates between US and non-US studies, but the US studies had a wider range of rates. The highest estimates came from studies that used broad definitions and included bipolar disorder not otherwise specified. Year of enrollment was negatively correlated with prevalence ( $r = -0.04$ ) and remained nonsignificant when controlling for study methodological differences.

**Conclusions:** Mean rates of bipolar disorder were higher than commonly acknowledged and not significantly different in US compared to non-US samples, nor was there evidence of an increase in rates of bipolar disorder in the community over time. Differences in diagnostic criteria were a main driver of different rates across studies.

*J Clin Psychiatry* 2011;72(9):1250-1256

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Merikangas 2010; Van Meter J Clin Psych 2011



# Bipolar Disorder is now considered in the differential diagnosis for youngsters with mood symptoms



## Mania-Like Symptoms Suggestive of Childhood-Onset Bipolar Disorder in Clinically Referred Children

JANET WOZNIAK, M.D., JOSEPH BIEDERMAN, M.D., KATHLEEN KIELY, B.A., J. STUART ABLON, B.A., STEPHEN V. FARAONE, Ph.D., ELIZABETH MUNDY, B.A., AND DOUGLAS MENNIN, B.A.

### ABSTRACT

**Objective:** To examine the prevalence, characteristics, and correlates of mania among referred children aged 12 or younger. Many case reports challenge the widely accepted belief that childhood-onset mania is rare. Sources of diagnostic confusion include the variable developmental expression of mania and its symptomatic overlap with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). **Method:** The authors compared 43 children aged 12 years or younger who satisfied criteria for mania, 164 ADHD children without mania, and 84 non-ADHD control children. **Results:** The clinical picture was fully compatible with the DSM-III-R diagnosis of mania in 16% (n = 43) of referred children. All but one of the children meeting criteria for mania also met criteria for ADHD. Compared with ADHD children without mania, manic children had significantly higher rates of major depression, psychosis, multiple anxiety disorders, conduct disorder, and oppositional defiant disorder as well as evidence of significantly more impaired psychosocial functioning. In addition, 21% (n = 9) of manic children had had at least one previous psychiatric hospitalization. **Conclusions:** Mania may be relatively common among psychiatrically referred children. The clinical picture of childhood-onset mania is very severe and frequently comorbid with ADHD and other psychiatric disorders. Because of the high comorbidity with ADHD, more work is needed to clarify whether these children have ADHD, bipolar disorder, or both. *J. Am. Acad. Child Adolesc. Psychiatry*, 1995, 34, 7-887-876. **Key Words:** bipolar disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, comorbidity

MGH clinical studies using structured interview diagnoses (KSADS) led a paradigm shift



Journal of Affective Disorders 82S (2004) S45–S58



www.elsevier.com/locate/jad

### Research report

## Further evidence of unique developmental phenotypic correlates of pediatric bipolar disorder: findings from a large sample of clinically referred preadolescent children assessed over the last 7 years

Joseph Biederman<sup>a,b,c,d,e,\*</sup>, Stephen V. Faraone<sup>a,b,c,d,e,f</sup>, Janet Wozniak<sup>a,b,c,d,e</sup>, Eric Mick<sup>a,b,c,d,e</sup>, Anne Kwon<sup>b,c,d,e</sup>, Megan Aleardi<sup>b,c,d,e</sup>

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<sup>c</sup>Johnson and Johnson Center for the Study of Pediatric Psychopathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, United States  
<sup>d</sup>Stanley Center for the Treatment of Pediatric Bipolar Disorder, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, United States  
<sup>e</sup>Precher Center for the Genetics of Pediatric Bipolar Disorder, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA, United States  
<sup>f</sup>Harvard Institute of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Genetics, Boston, MA, United States

Received 20 January 2004; accepted 17 May 2004

### Abstract

**Background:** A comparison of the prevalence, clinical correlates, and patterns of comorbidity among children with bipolar disorder (BPD) assessed in the early 1990s (1st cohort) with those evaluated over the last 7 years (2nd cohort).

**Method:** Subjects in both cohorts were children aged ≤12 years referred to a child psychiatry service and evaluated with a DSM-III-R BPD diagnosis (1st cohort, n=43; 2nd cohort, n=129) were compared with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) children without BPD referred to the same service.

Identified in 17% of subjects; (2) the ADHD children frequently met criteria for BPD, with rates of psychiatric hospitalization

indicating a sizable number of referred children with BPD. Phenotypic features and patterns of comorbidity support the hypothesis that clinically referred children represent a severe developmental subtype of bipolar disorder.

Consecutively referred children ≤ 12 years:

1991-1995 16% Bipolar Disorder (N=262)

1995-2002 17% Bipolar Disorder (N=768)

76% ADHD

Wozniak 1995; Biederman 2004



# The symptoms of mania are the same in children and adults\*

- A. A *distinct period* of abnormally and persistently elevated, expansive or irritable mood  
and persistently increased goal-directed activity or energy
- B. At least 3/7 (4/7 if mood is irritable)
- 1) D Distractibility
  - 2) I Increased activity/psychomotor agitation
  - 3) G Grandiosity or inflated self-esteem
  - 4) F Flight of ideas or racing thoughts
  - 5) A Activities with painful consequences
  - 6) S Sleep decreased
  - 7) T Talkative or pressured speech



**\*taking development into consideration**

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5).



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Isn't 'euphoria' and 'grandiosity' part of childhood?



# Euphoria in children can be difficult to distinguish from developmentally normal behaviors

goofy

giddy

silly

inappropriate  
laughter or  
singing

class  
clown

Grandiosity can appear as flagrant disregard for adult authority

# MGH PEDIATRIC MANIA SYMPTOM CHECKLIST<sup>®</sup>

## GUIDELINES FOR RATING

- Rate each of the following items for the past week
- Rate items relative to subject's baseline or what's expected for age / developmental level
- Assess behavior based on report from caretaker, subject and rater observation
- Assess composite severity based on frequency and intensity of the behavior

SYMPTOMS	FREQUENCY			INTENSITY			COMPOSITE SEVERITY				
	< 1/2 a week ( <u>&lt;</u> 4 days)	1/2 a week ( <u>≥</u> 4 days)	All week (Daily)	Mild 1	Moderate 2	Severe 3	0	1	2	3	
<b>1. MOOD BEING EUPHORIC</b> Start each item by saying - "In the last week did s/he have difficulties with..." as suggested by sustained periods of: ○ <b>happy or excited</b> mood ○ <b>silly, giddy, goofy</b> mood ○ <b>laughing unusually</b> talk	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>2. MOOD BEING IRRITABLE</b> as suggested by sustained periods of: ○ extremely <b>irritable, angry, cranky, grouchy</b> moods ○ extremely <b>threatening, destructive, or assaultive</b> behaviors ○ extreme <b>anger outbursts</b> / meltdowns / rage	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>3. INCREASED ENERGY OR ACTIVITY</b> as suggested by: ○ engaging in activities in an <b>urgent, pressured, rushed</b> way, or at a <b>faster pace</b> than expected ( <i>does not slow down</i> ) ○ working on <b>big projects</b> that are beyond the capacity of what is typical for <u>age</u> ○ <b>extreme involvement</b> in an activity of interest ( <i>engages at earliest opportunity; difficult to disengage</i> )	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>4. LACK OF SLEEP</b> as suggested by sleeping fewer hours than expected	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>5. DISTRACTIBILITY</b> as suggested by: ○ inability to stay on <u>task</u> ○ being highly <b>inattentive</b> ○ inability to <b>concentrate</b>	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>6. TALKATIVENESS</b> as evidenced by: ○ talking <b>loud, fast</b> or <b>too much</b> ○ <b>pressured speech</b> that is difficult to <b>interrupt</b>	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
<b>7. STAYING ON TOPIC / RACING THOUGHTS</b> as suggested by: ○ <b>jumping from topic to topic</b> or talking about many different topics at the same time ○ reporting <b>racing thoughts</b> or <b>mind being too active</b>	Score	1	2	3	1	2	3	0	1	2	3



Ask about symptoms appropriate to developmental stage

# MGH PEDIATRIC MANIA SYMPTOM CHECKLIST<sup>®</sup>



SYMPTOMS	FREQUENCY			INTENSITY			COMPOSITE SEVERITY				
	< 1/2 a week (< 4 days)	> 1/2 a week (≥ 4 days)	All week (Daily)	Mild	Moderate	Severe					
	1	2	3	1	2	3					
<p>Start each item by saying - "In the last week did s/he have difficulties with..."</p> <p><b>8. INCREASED INTEREST / PREOCCUPATION WITH SEX</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as suggested by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sexual remarks or bathroom humor</li> <li>touching, rubbing, or exposing self</li> <li>touching or sexual play involving others</li> </ul>											
<p><b>9. POOR JUDGMENT</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as suggested by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>reckless</b> or <b>daredevil</b> behaviors putting self or others in <u>trouble</u></li> <li>excessive and/or unrealistic <b>demands</b> or insists on <u>buying</u></li> <li>excessively <b>friendly with strangers</b></li> </ul>											
<p><b>10. INFLATED SELF-ESTEEM (OVER-ESTIMATING ONESELF)</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as suggested by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>bragging</b> and/or acting <b>stronger and smarter</b> than others (<i>overestimating oneself</i>)</li> <li>extremely <b>bossy</b> and/or <b>controlling</b> behaviors (<i>extreme entitlement</i>)</li> <li>flagrant disregard for <b>rules, chores, and/or adult authority</b> (<i>as if above rules</i>)</li> </ul>											
<p><b>11. UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reporting <b>hearing voices</b> or <b>seeing things</b> that don't <u>exist</u></li> <li><b>grandiose, suspicious</b> or <b>paranoid</b> behaviors that are out of touch with <u>reality</u></li> <li><b>bizarre</b> behaviors</li> </ul>											
<p><b>12. PERSONAL CARE &amp; APPEARANCE</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as suggested by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>poor hygiene:</b> refuses to shower, brush teeth or change clothes; unkempt or <u>disheveled</u></li> <li>excessive indulgence in <b>personal care</b> (grooming, bathing or makeup)</li> <li><b>inappropriately dressed:</b> for the situation/weather, strange/odd, sexually provocative or under/over dressed</li> </ul>											
<p><b>13. AWARENESS OF BEHAVIORAL DIFFICULTIES</b> <i>Score</i> 1 2 3 1 2 3 0 1 2 3</p> <p>as evidenced by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>denying having <b>problem</b></li> <li>refusing to take <b>medications</b> or <b>see doctor</b></li> <li>expressing no <b>regret, remorse, apology</b> or <b>guilt</b> for misbehaviors</li> </ul>											

Ask about symptoms appropriate to developmental stage



# Here's what we learned about children with mania

IRRITABLE

- The major mood disorder chief complaint of the parents was **severe irritability** (rather than euphoria)

MIXED

- The children had mostly **mixed states** (mania and depression overlapped in time)

CHRONIC

- The children were **seldom well** due to mixed states, many cycles and comorbidity (chronicity)



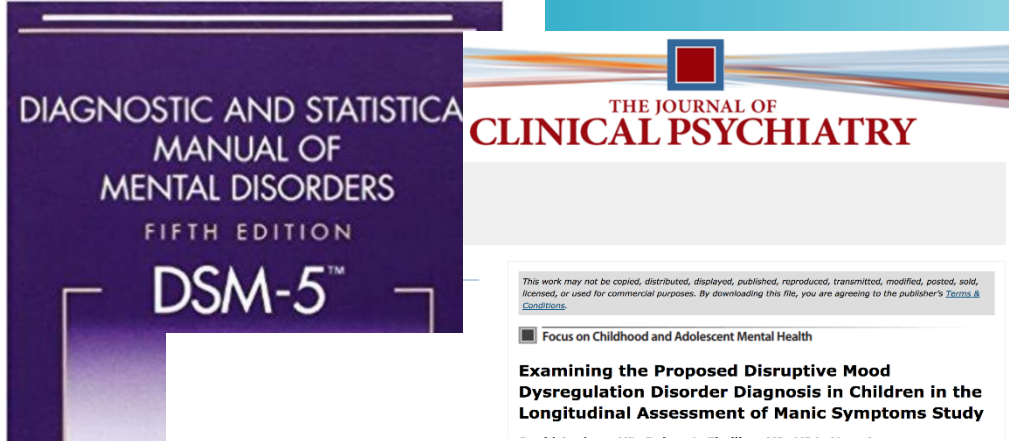
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How can you say that irritability is a symptom of mania?

# A new disorder was created called DMDD grouped under 'depressive disorders'



DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL OF MENTAL DISORDERS FIFTH EDITION DSM-5™ AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

THE JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY

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Focus on Childhood and Adolescent Mental Health

Examining the Proposed Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder Diagnosis in Children in the Longitudinal Assessment of Manic Symptoms Study

DSM-5™ Diagnostic Criteria

Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder	296.99 (F34.8)
A. Severe recurrent temper outbursts manifested verbally (e.g., verbal rages) and/or behaviorally (e.g., physical aggression toward people or property) that are grossly out of proportion in intensity or duration to the situation or provocation.	
B. The temper outbursts are inconsistent with developmental level.	
C. The temper outbursts occur, on average, three or more times per week.	
D. The mood between temper outbursts is persistently irritable or angry most of the day, nearly every day, and is observable by others (e.g., parents, teachers, peers).	

Diagnosing DMDD does not inform management

A clinical decision must be made

Is the illness:

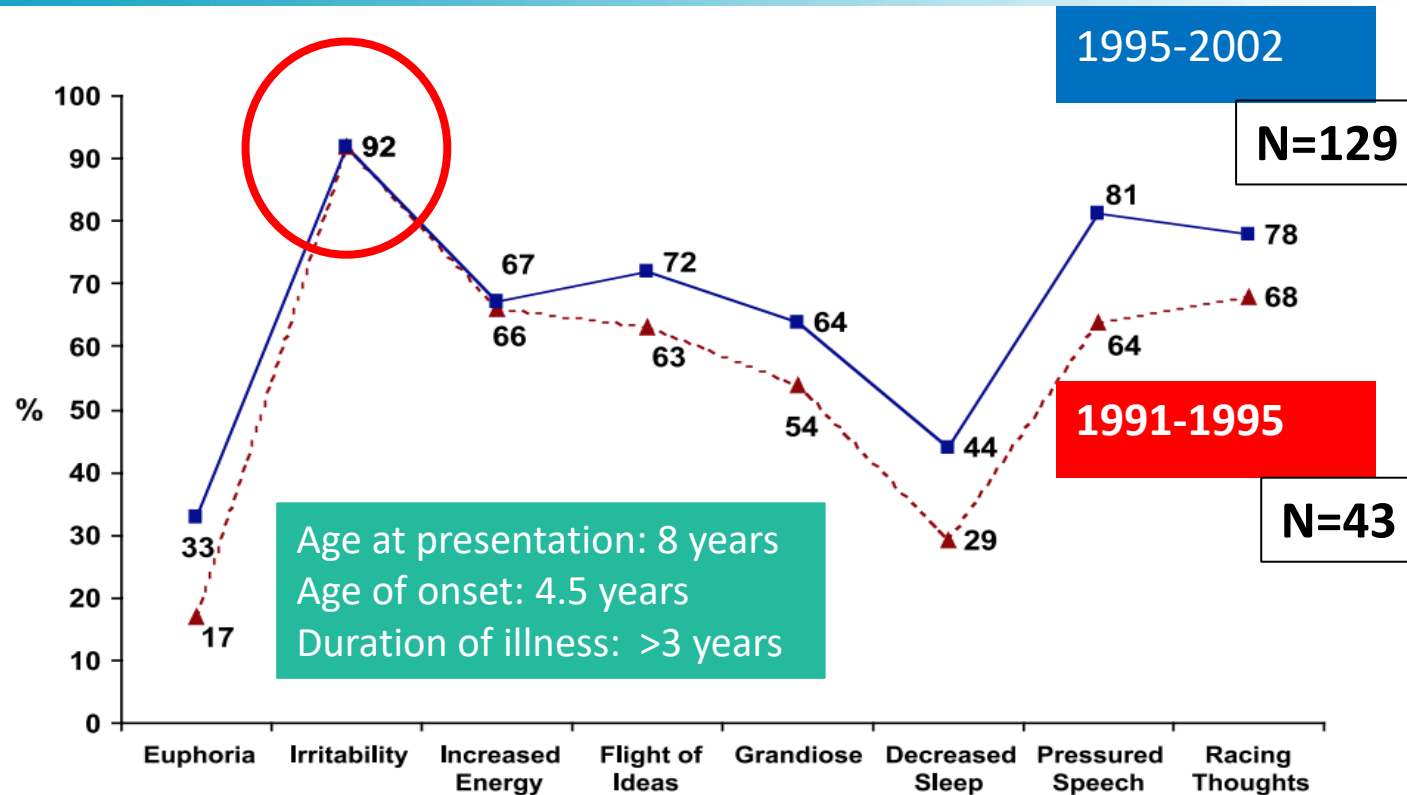
- a form of depression?
- a form of bipolar disorder?

Risperidone and aripiprazole are FDA approved for irritability in autism

# The symptoms of mania are the same in two cohorts of pre-adolescent age youth with bipolar disorder

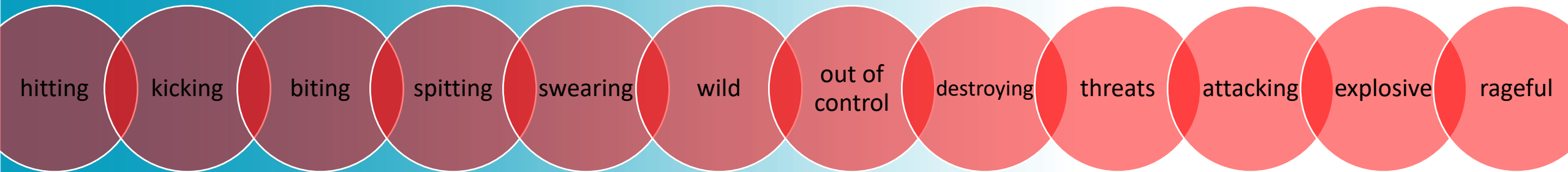


Irritability is the most common and impairing complaint in this referred sample





# The type of irritability observed in manic children is very severe with a flagrant disregard for adult authority



Dangerous outbursts can be daily or more than daily and long lasting, 30-60+ minutes



# Irritability is also a symptom of depression

**grouchy**

**cranky**

**whining**

**complaining**

**difficult to  
please**

Mixed states are common making it difficult to know if the child needs more anti-manic treatment or an anti-depressant treatment

Biederman JAACAP 1996



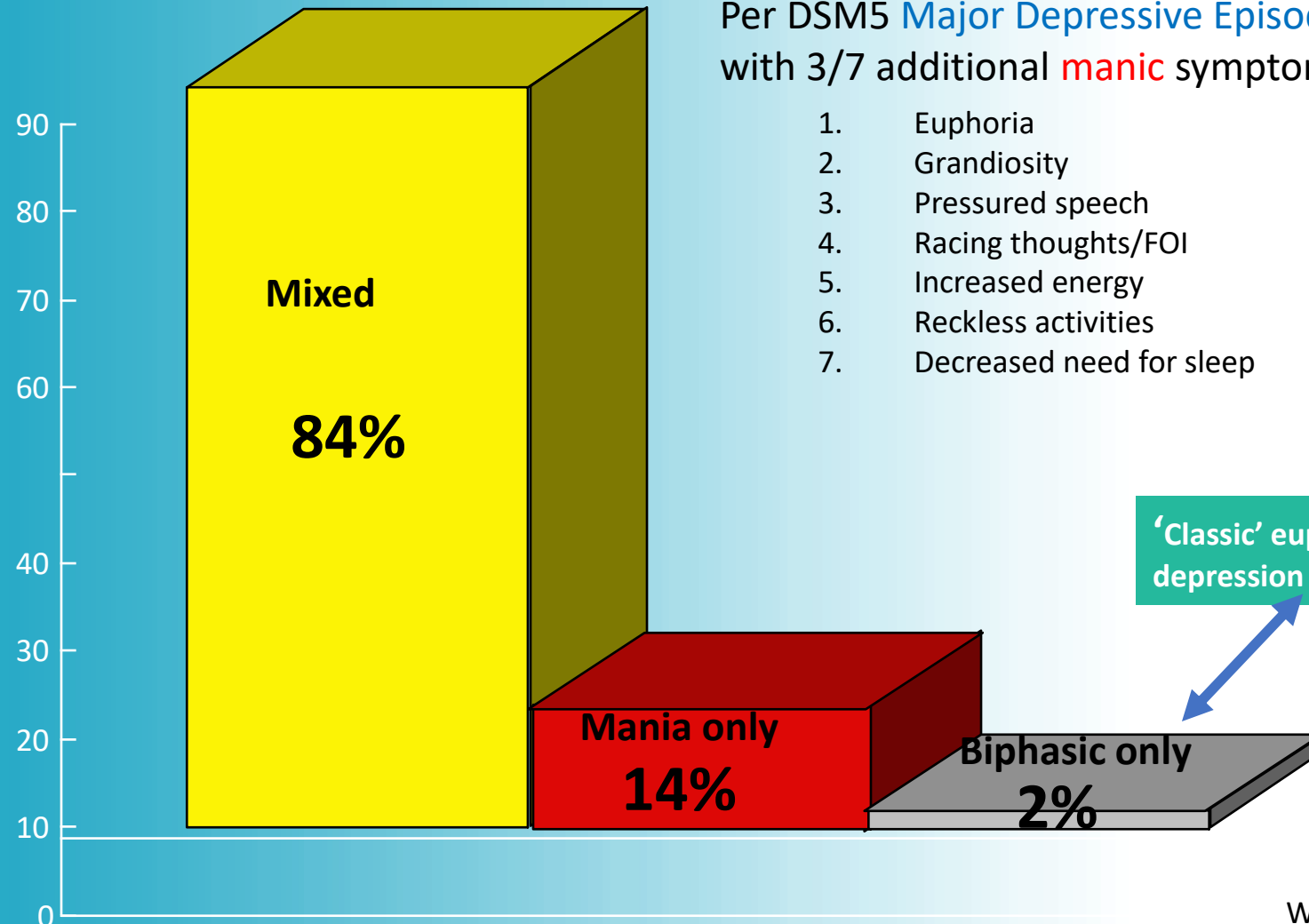
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Doesn't bipolar disorder have to have clear 'cycles?'

# Mixed presentations are common



Per DSM5 Major Depressive Episode is “mixed” with 3/7 additional manic symptoms

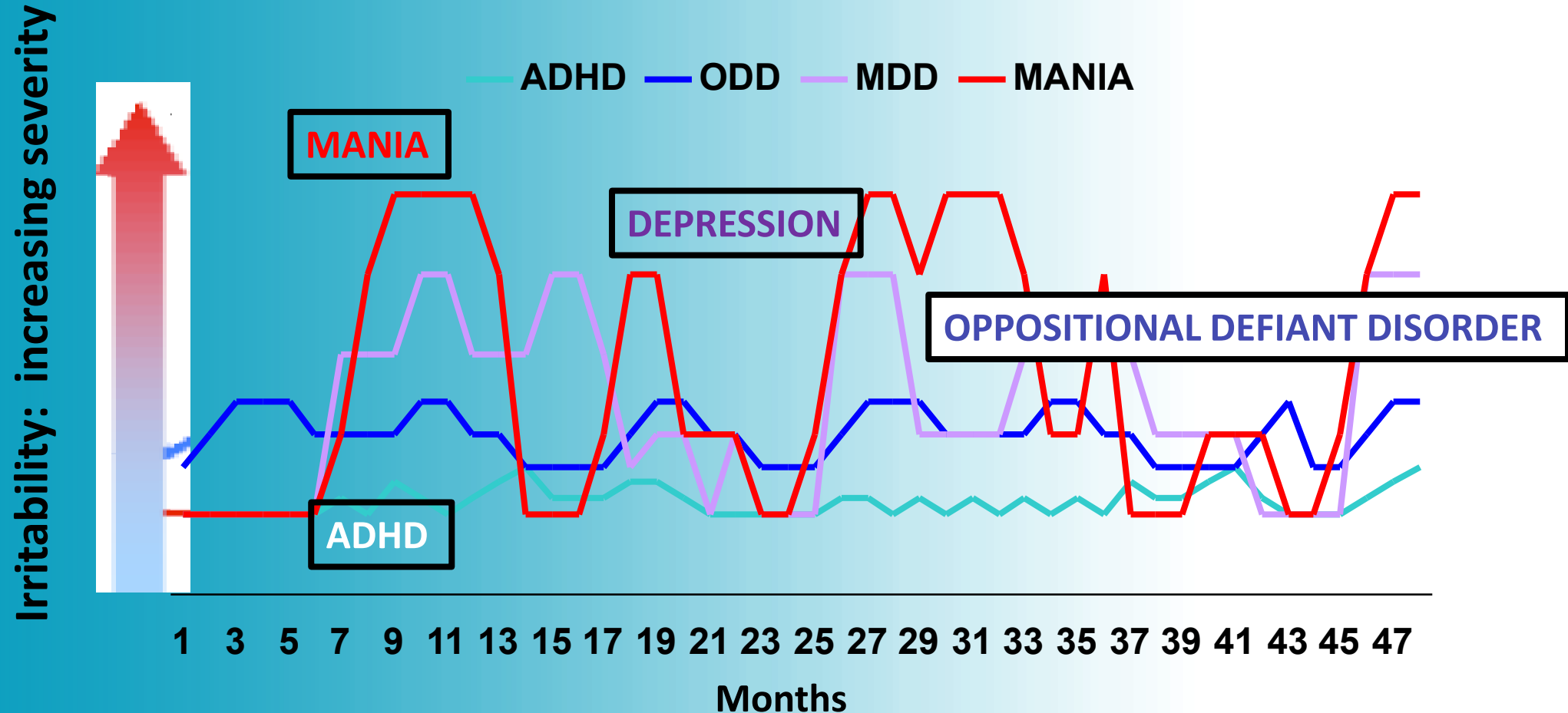
1. Euphoria
2. Grandiosity
3. Pressured speech
4. Racing thoughts/FOI
5. Increased energy
6. Reckless activities
7. Decreased need for sleep

‘Classic’ euphoric mania alternating with depression is rare in pediatric bipolar disorder

Wozniak 1995; Biederman 2004



# Different forms of irritability can co-exist and overlap, leading to a 'never well' condition





You say these manic children have hyperactivity, talkativeness, impulsivity, irritability, defiance and chronicity.

How can I be convinced that these children don't just have a severe form of ADHD?



# Here's what we learned about children with mania

## IRRITABLE

- The major mood disorder chief complaint of the parents was severe irritability (rather than euphoria)

## MIXED

- The children had mostly mixed states (mania and depression overlapped in time)

## CHRONIC

- The children were seldom well due to mixed states, many cycles and comorbidity (chronicity)

## ADHD

- **Almost all of them had ADHD**  
(especially when the onset of mania was prior to age 12)



# Mania and ADHD share symptoms, but ADHD is not a mood disorder

## Mania:

A. *A distinct period (7 days=mania; 4 days=hypomania) of abnormally and persistently elevated, expansive, or irritable mood and persistently increased goal-directed activity or energy*

B. At least 3/7 (4/7 if mood is irritable)

ADHD sx in blue

- 1) D **Distractibility**
- 2) I Increased **activity/psychomotor** agitation
- 3) G Grandiosity or inflated self-esteem
- 4) F Flight of ideas or racing thoughts
- 5) A Activities with painful consequences (**impulsivity**)
- 6) S Sleep decreased
- 7) T **Talkative** or pressured speech



# Pediatric bipolar disorder symptoms overlap with ADHD symptoms, but requires mood symptoms to diagnose

There are overlapping symptoms between ADHD and BPD

Distractibility  
very severe in  
bipolar disorder

Hyperactivity  
vs. increased  
energy/activity in  
bipolar disorder

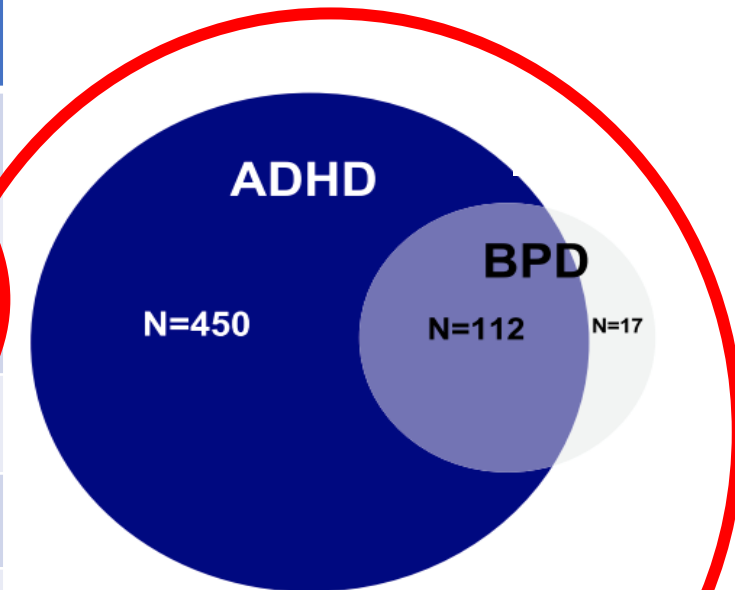
Talkativeness  
vs. pressured  
speech in  
bipolar disorder

Bipolar disorder requires  
severe mood symptoms:  
euphoria/irritability/melancholy

There is a substantial bi-directional overlap between bipolar disorder and ADHD-

Bipolar disorder+ADHD has higher rates of comorbidity than ADHD alone

	MANIA	ADHD
Depression	86%	38%
Psychosis	16%	0
Defiance (ODD)	88%	48%
Conduct Disorder	37%	15%
Anxiety	56%	26%
Hospitalization	21%	2%
Functioning	Very poor	fair
Learning Disability	42%	14%



Most young children with bipolar disorder also have comorbid ADHD



# Adults with ADHD have higher rates of bipolar disorder than adults without ADHD

The National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions

N=34,000 adults  
2.5% ADHD

34% **with ADHD** had bipolar disorder  
versus

6% *without* ADHD had bipolar disorder

The National Comorbidity Survey Replication

N=3199 adults  
4.4% ADHD

19% **with ADHD** had bipolar disorder  
versus

3% *without* ADHD had bipolar disorder

Bernardi Psychol Med 2012  
Kessler Am J Psych 2006



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Is this the same bipolar disorder that adults have?

Do children develop 'classic' bipolar disorder?

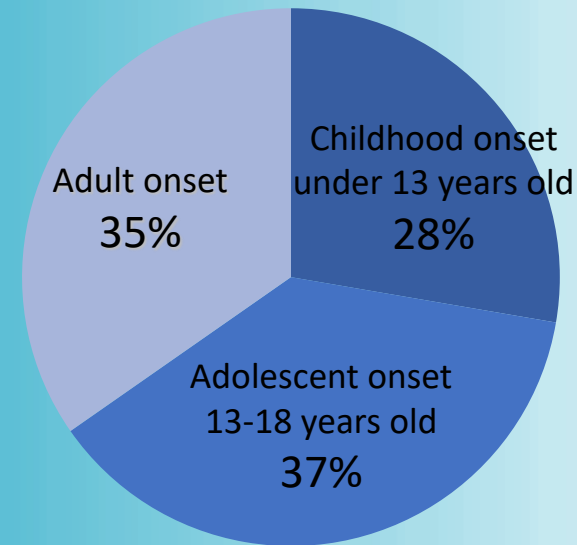
# Most adults in this large clinic sample report pediatric onset of their bipolar disorder with greater morbidity



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STEP-BD (N=983)



## 65% Report Pediatric Onset of Bipolar Disorder

### Earlier onset associated with:

- Higher rates of comorbid anxiety and substance abuse
- More recurrences
- Shorter periods of euthymia
- Greater likelihood of suicide attempts
- Greater likelihood of violence

Perlis Biol Psych 2004



# Adults with Bipolar Disorder + ADHD have clinical correlates similar to that seen in pediatric bipolar disorder

9.5% lifetime prevalence comorbid ADHD in adult STEP-BD (N=983)

## BPD+ADHD Adult patients:

- had **earlier onset** BPD by 5 years
- had shorter periods of wellness (**chronic**)
- had more comorbidity (**anxiety and substance**)
- were more likely to be **male**
- were more likely to have **Bipolar I**
- had **more days irritable** and more days elated
- had **lower GAF**
- more **suicide attempts**
- more **violence**
- more **legal** problems (conduct disorder?)



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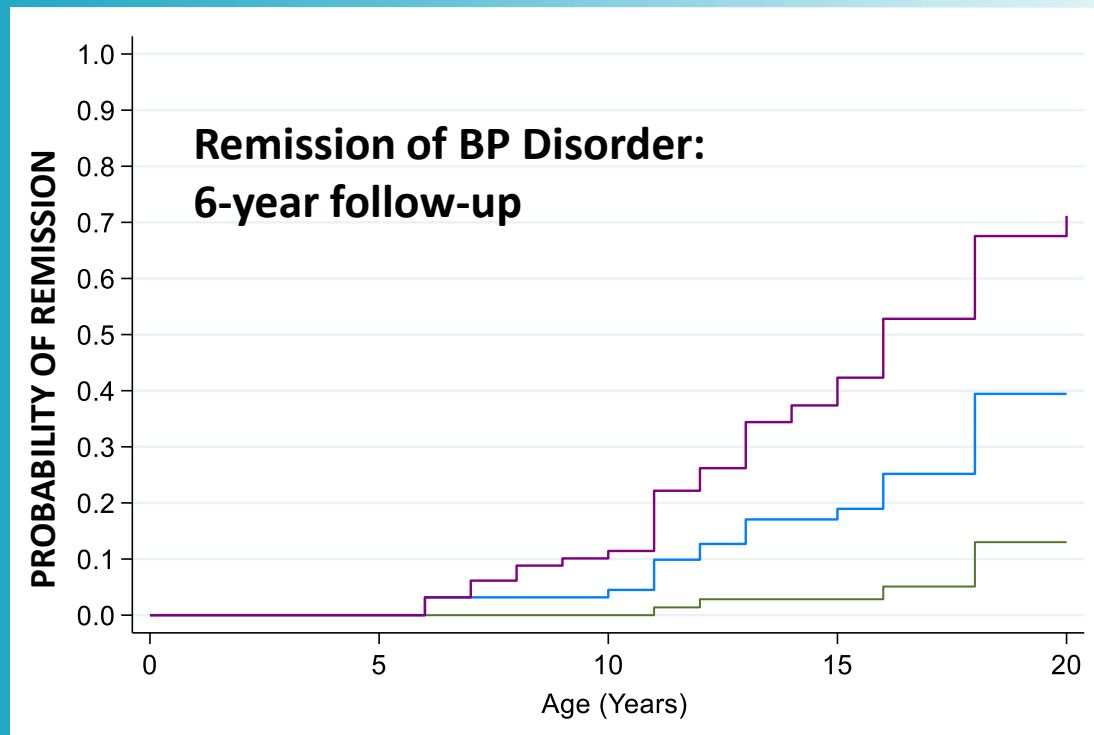
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Are you labeling these children with this highly stigmatized extremely serious disorder for the rest of their lives?



# Pediatric Bipolar Disorder is persistent; full remission is rare



*Most common: Has symptoms and impaired functioning*

*No symptoms, but functioning impaired*

*Least likely: full recovery with  
no symptoms and good functioning*

**Functional remission is least likely outcome  
Symptoms and poor functioning found at follow-up**

Wozniak 2020



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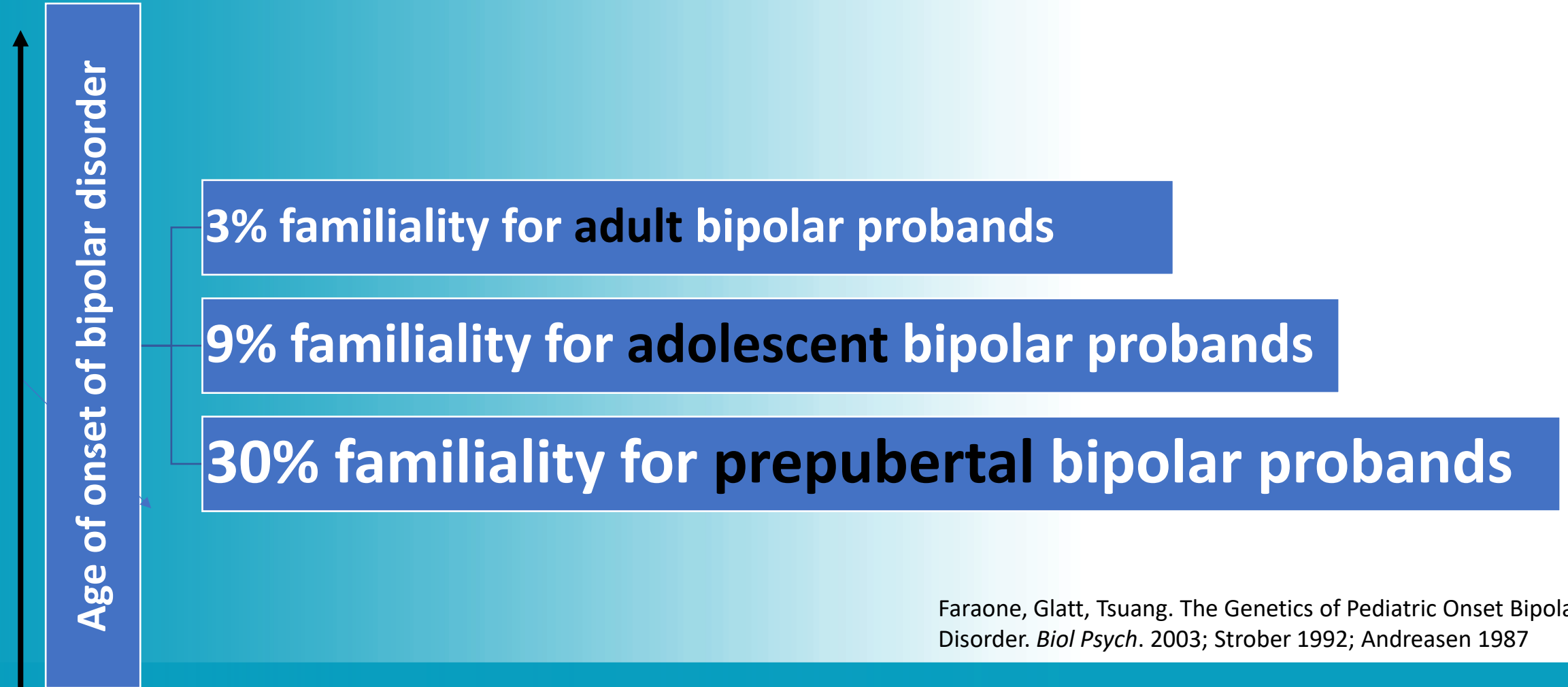
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Does bipolar disorder run in families?



# Family studies support a larger genetic contribution to early-onset cases



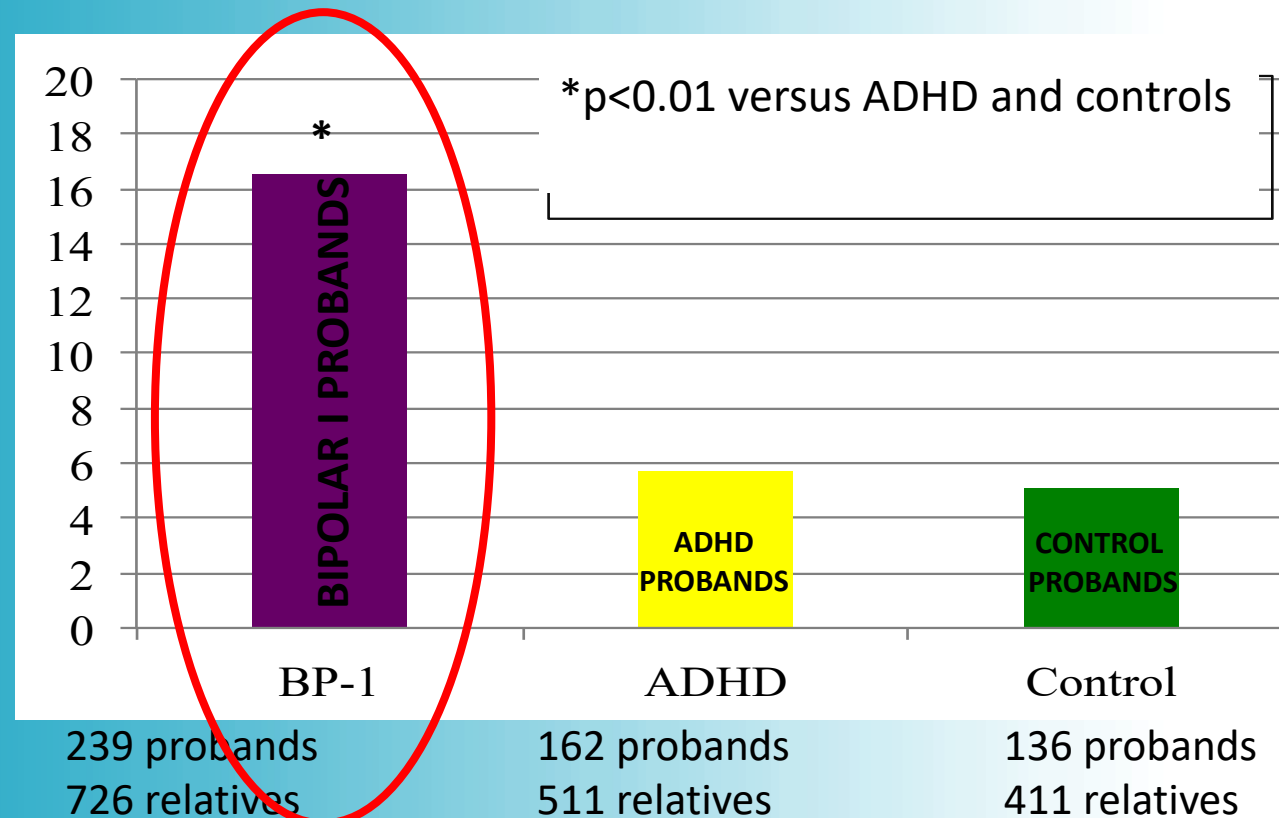
Faraone, Glatt, Tsuang. The Genetics of Pediatric Onset Bipolar Disorder. *Biol Psych*. 2003; Strober 1992; Andreasen 1987



# Familial risk of bipolar I disorder is greatest in first-degree relatives of BP-I versus ADHD and control probands

The MGH Pediatric Bipolar Disorder study is the largest controlled family study

Morbid risk bipolar disorder  
in first-degree relatives



Wozniak.J Clin Psych.2012



# Genome wide association study (GWAS) supports the idea that bipolar + ADHD is an early onset genetic subtype of bipolar

Biological  
Psychiatry

## Archival Report

### Genetic Overlap Between Attention-Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder and Bipolar Disorder: Evidence From Genome-wide Association Study Meta-analysis

Kimm J.E. van Hulzen, Claus J. Scholz, Barbara Franke, Stephan Ripke, Marieke Klein, Andrew McQuillin, Edmund J. Sonuga-Barke, PGC ADHD Working Group, John R. Kelsoe, Mikael Landén, Ole A. Andreassen, PGC Bipolar Disorder Working Group, Klaus-Peter Lesch, Heike Weber, Stephen V. Faraone, Alejandro Arias-Vasquez, and Andreas Reif

#### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and bipolar disorder (BPD) are frequently co-occurring and highly heritable mental health conditions. We hypothesized that BPD cases with an early age of onset ( $\leq 21$  years old) would be particularly likely to show genetic covariation with ADHD.

**METHODS:** Genome-wide association study data were available for 4609 individuals with ADHD, 9650 individuals with BPD (5167 thereof with early-onset BPD), and 21,363 typically developing controls. We conducted a cross-disorder genome-wide association study meta-analysis to identify whether the observed comorbidity between ADHD and BPD could be due to shared genetic risks.

**RESULTS:** We found a significant single nucleotide polymorphism-based genetic correlation between ADHD and BPD in the full and age-restricted samples ( $r_{GEMM} = .64, p = 3.13 \times 10^{-14}$ ;  $r_{Restricted} = .71, p = 4.09 \times 10^{-16}$ ). The meta-analysis between the full BPD sample identified two genome-wide significant ( $p_{15,708,997.3} = 2.47 \times 10^{-6}$ ;  $p_{15,1175,6438} = 4.36 \times 10^{-6}$ ) regions located on chromosomes 6 (*CEP85L*) and 10 (*TAF9BP2*). Restricting the analyses to BPD cases with an early onset yielded one genome-wide significant association ( $p_{15,68,502,974} = 2.11 \times 10^{-7}$ ) on chromosome 5 in the *ADCY2* gene. Additional nominally significant regions identified contained known expression quantitative trait loci with putative functional consequences for *NTSDC1*, *NTSDC2*, and *CACNB3* expression, whereas functional predictions implicated *ABLIM1* as an allele-specific expressed gene in neuronal tissue.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The single nucleotide polymorphism-based genetic correlation between ADHD and BPD is

Early onset bipolar disorder (with high rates of ADHD) may be caused by a different genetic mechanism than later onset forms of bipolar disorder