

**Inside the Volatile
World of the**

YOUNG AND BIPOLAR

**Why are so many kids being
diagnosed with a disorder once
known as MANIC DEPRESSION?**

ENTER >>>>



Practice Parameter for the Assessment and Treatment of Children and Adolescents with Bipolar Disorder,

Journal of the Academy of Child and Adolescent
Psychiatry, 1997

Primary Authors: Jon McClellan MD and John
Werry MD

Bipolar Disorder

Manic Phase

- ☐ Persistently elevated mood (1 week or more)
- ☐ Pressured Speech
- ☐ Racing Thoughts
- ☐ Decreased Sleep
- ☐ Increased Energy
- ☐ Grandiosity
- ☐ Reckless or Dangerous Behavior

Bipolar Disorder

Depressed Phase

- ◆ **Persistent Dysphoria**
- ◆ **Anhedonia**
- ◆ **Weight and**
- ◆ **Appetite Changes**
- ◆ **Insomnia or hypersomnia**
- ◆ **Psychomotor agitation or Retardation**
- ◆ **Lethargy**
- ◆ **Worthlessness or guilt**
- ◆ **Decreased Concentration**
- ◆ **Suicidal Ideation**

Bipolar Disorder

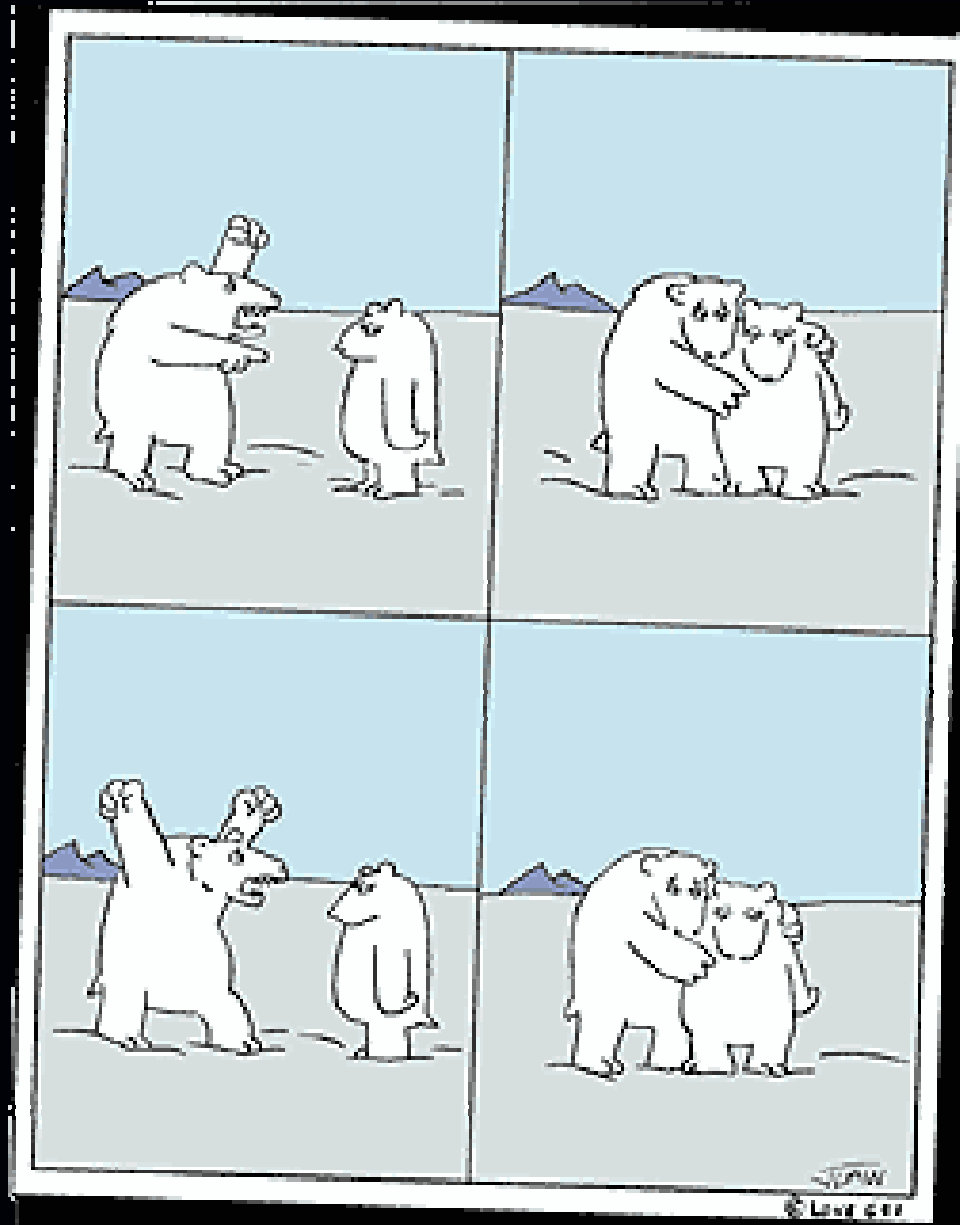
- Bipolar I Disorder: At least one episode of Mania
- Bipolar II Disorder: One or more episodes of Major Depression and Hypomania, no Manic episodes
- Cyclothymia: Numerous Hypomanic and Dysthymic Episodes Persisting for at least One Year (Two years for Adults)
- Mixed Episode: Symptoms of Mania and a Major Depressive Disorder, duration of at least 1 week
- Rapid Cycling: At Least 4 Episodes of Mood disturbance over a 12 month period

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

Definitions (Geller et al., 2000)

- Ultrarapid Cycling: Very brief frequent manic episodes lasting hours to days (< 4 days)
5 – 364 cycles per year.
- Ultradian Cycling: Repeated brief (minutes to hours) cycles that occur daily.
> 365 cycles per year.

SNAPSHOTS by Jason Lowe



Bipolar bear.

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder Epidemiology

- Approximately 20% of All Bipolar Patients Have Onset Prior to Age 20 years.
- Lewinsohn et al., 1995: School Survey (ages 14 - 18 yrs)
 - ◆ 1 % Lifetime Prevalence Rate (mostly Bipolar II)
 - ◆ 6 % Subthreshold Symptomatology (at age 24 years these youth had increased psychopathology, but not bipolar)
- Carlson and Kashani, 1988: Community Survey (14 - 16 yrs)
 - ◆ Lifetime prevalence of mania varied from 0.6% to 13.3% depending on severity and duration criteria.
- Lifetime Estimated Prevalence Rate = 0.8% in General Population (APA, 1994).

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Onset Below Age 10 is Rare?

Surveys of Adult Patients

- Kraepelin (1921): 0.4 % of 903 patients had onset below age 10 years
- Loranger and Levine, (1978): 0.5% (200 patients)
- Goodwin and Jamison, (1990): 0.3% (898 patients)

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Onset Below Age 12 is Not Rare?

- Weller et al., (1986): 38/157 cases diagnosed with mania in reports of severely mentally ill children.
- Wozniak et al., (1995): 43/262 referred children (≤ 12 yrs old), met DSM-III-R criteria for mania .
16 - 24% of clinically referred children have mania?
- Geller et al., (1994): 25/79 children with major depression developed mania (80% prior to age 13 yrs)
- Geller et al., (2000): PEA-BP appears to be a homogeneous subtype in 93 consecutively ascertained outpatients

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

⇒ Geller and Luby (1997):

Prevalence of bipolar disorder in youth may be the same as that in adults



Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Diagnostic Issues

Childhood Onset

- Irritability and Mixed Symptoms are more Common than Euphoria
- Changes in Mood, Psychomotor Functioning, and Behavior are often Labile and Erratic
- Chronic vs. Episodic vs. Rapid Cycling Course?
- High Rates of Comorbid Behavior Disorders

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

Childhood Mania

- 20 % of Children with ADHD (n = 206) met DSM-III-R Criteria for mania
- Average age of onset: 4.4 ± 3.1 years
- Average duration of Illness: 3.0 ± 2.1 years
- High rate (98%) of comorbid ADHD
- Chronic vs Cyclical Course
 - 23 % “mania always present”

Wozniak et al., 1995

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

Prepubertal and Early Adolescent Bipolar Disorder Phenotype (PEA-BP)

- 10% Ultrarapid cycling & 77% Ultradian cycling
- Average age of onset: 7.3 ± 3.5 years
- Average duration of episode: 3.6 ± 2.5 years
- High rate (87%) of comorbid ADHD

Geller et al., 2000 J Child Adolesc Psychopharmacol

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

Prepubertal and Early Adolescent Bipolar Disorder Phenotype (PEA-BP)

PEA-BP appears reliable and stable at 6 months, 1 and 2 years

- 3.7 ± 2.1 cycles per day
- A low rate of recovery over a two-year period
- Treatment (including mood stabilizers) did not appear to impact outcome

Geller et al., 2000, 2002

Juvenile Bipolar Disorder

Bipolar Disorder in Very Young Children

- Wilens et al., (2002): 26% of preschoolers with ADHD have bipolar disorder, a rate significantly higher than found in their comparison school age sample.
- In a survey of members of the Child & Adolescent Bipolar Foundation, 24 percent of the youth (n = 854) were between the ages of 1 and 8 years (Hellander, 2002).

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Diagnostic Issues

Adolescent Onset

- Psychotic Symptoms
- Markedly Labile Moods with Mixed Symptoms
- Severe Deterioration in Behavior
- Early Course More Chronic, and Refractory to Treatment
- High Rate of Misdiagnosis as Schizophrenia

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Associated Features

- High Rates of Comorbid ADHD/Conduct Disorder; Substance Abuse in Adolescents
- Premorbid Histories Include:
 - Disruptive Behavior Disorders
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
- Increased Family History of Bipolar Disorder
- Increased Suicide Risk

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Course and Prognosis

- Adolescents: Early Course often prolonged and treatment refractory
 - Long-term prognosis appears similar to adults
 - 50% functioning impairment below their premorbid state.
- Children: Course may be more chronic and severe, but studies are lacking
- > 90% of Adolescents Noncompliant with Lithium relapsed over an 18 month period (37.5% on Lithium relapsed) (Strober et al., 1990)
- 20 % of Adolescents Made a Least One Significant Suicide Attempt over a 5 year period (Strober et al., 1995).

Very Early Onset Bipolar Disorder?

ADHD versus Bipolar Disorder?

- Manuzza et al., 1993: 91 males with ADD (mean age 18.3 years, mean f/u 16 years) vs. 100 controls:
 - Increased Rates of ADHD, Antisocial Personality Disorder and Drug Abuse
 - No cases of Bipolar Disorder
- Weiss et al., 1985: 63 youth with ADD vs. 41 controls (ages 21 - 33 years):
 - Increased rates of ADD symptoms/Antisocial Personality Disorder
 - No Increase in Mood Disorders
- NIMH Multimodal Treatment Study of ADHD (MTA Study)
 - 579 children (ages 7 to 9 years) at 6 sites
 - No cases of bipolar disorder

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Specificity of Symptoms

Mania

- ➔ Irritability
- ➔ Increased Energy
- ➔ Pressured Speech
- ➔ Reckless Behavior
- ➔ Grandiosity
- ➔ Distractibility
- ➔ Decreased Sleep

ADHD

- ➔ Grumpy
- ➔ Hyperactive
- ➔ Talking Fast
- ➔ Reckless Behavior
- ➔ Bragging
- ➔ Distractibility
- ➔ Restless Sleeper

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Specificity of Symptoms

Mania

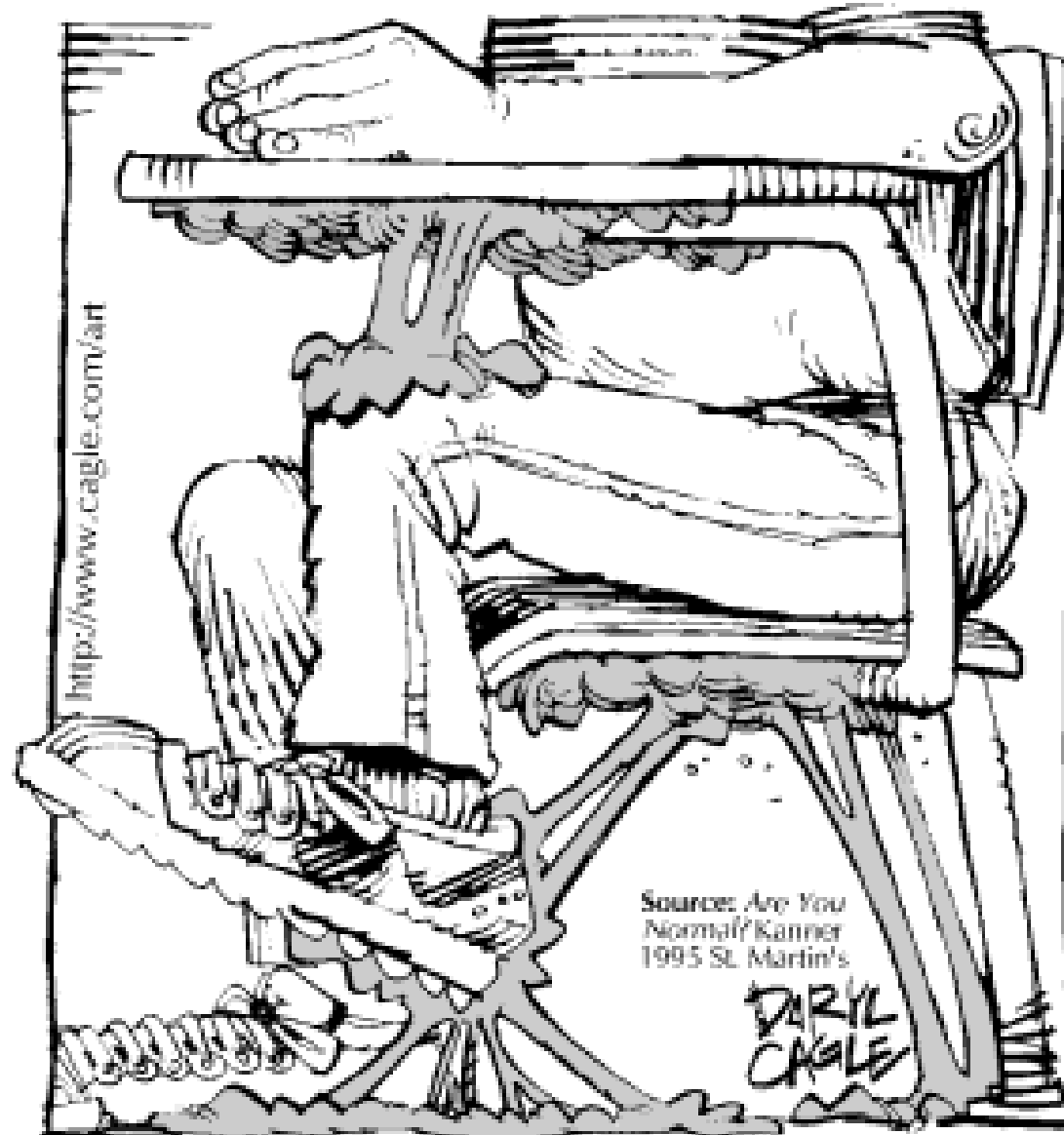
- ➔ Mood Swings
- ➔ Paranoia
- ➔ Irritability
- ➔ Reckless Behavior
- ➔ Distractibility
- ➔ Decreased Sleep

Borderline/PTSD

- ➔ Affective Instability
 - ➔ Hypervigilance
 - ➔ Behavioral Dyscontrol
 - ➔ Sleep Problems
 - ➔ Dissociative Symptoms
- (Psychotic-like Symptoms)

TRUE!

by Daryl Cagle

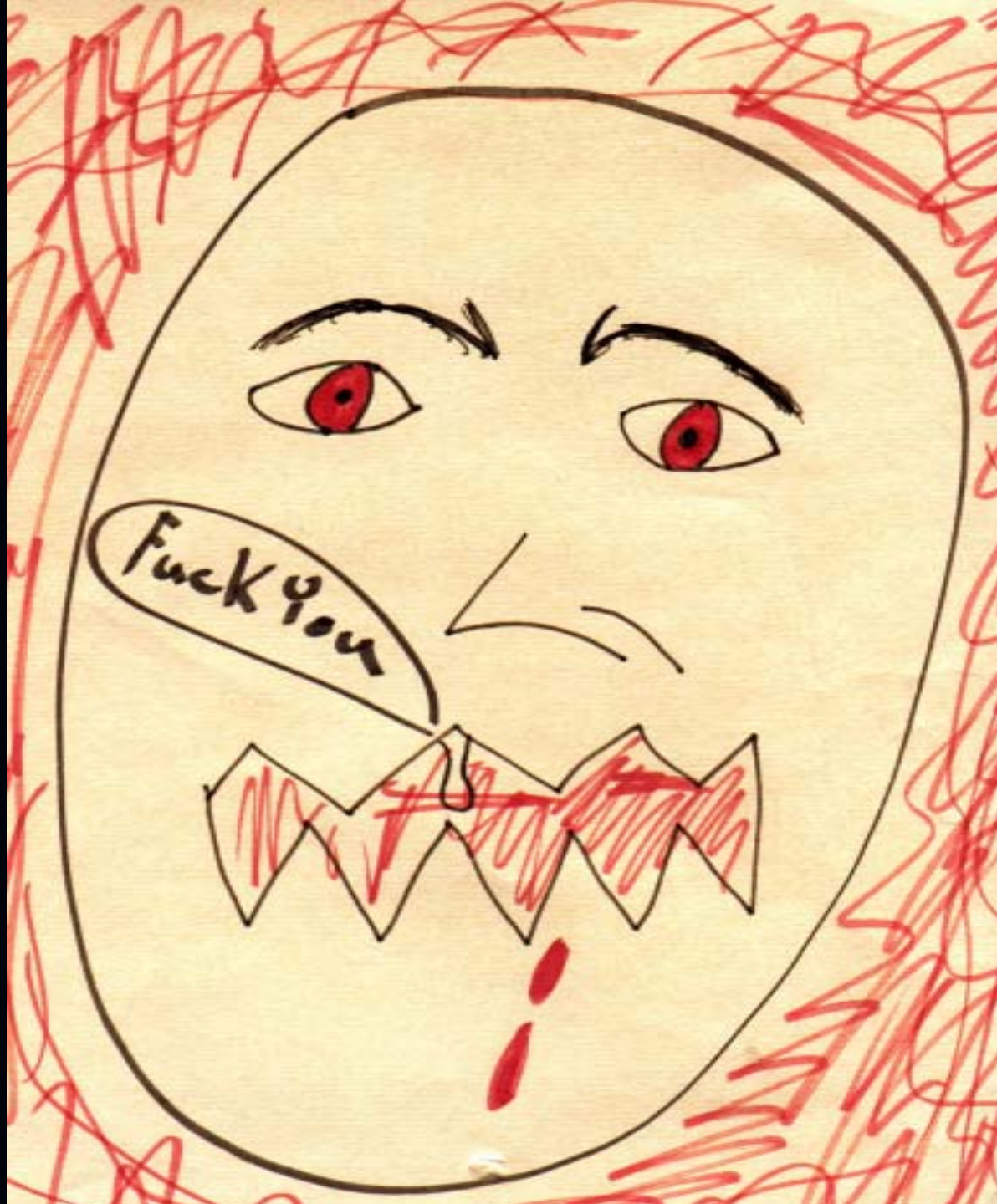


Kids are seven times more likely than adults to plant their gum in and under furniture.

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Diagnostic Controversy

- Diagnostic Nosology
 - Criterion Describe Recognized Disorder, or
 - Criterion Are the Disorder?
- Symptom Specificity
- Premorbid State versus Disorder
- Duration and Severity Criteria
 - Duration Criteria not included in DSM-III-R
- Lack of Follow-up Studies
 - No Follow-up Studies for Childhood Onset
- Lack of “Gold Standard”



Early Onset Bipolar Disorder Treatment Strategies

❑ Psychopharmacology

- 4 – 6 week trial of First Line Antimanic Agent
- Second Trial or Agent may be needed for Refractory Cases
- Antidepressants may initiate cycling into mania, should only be used as adjunct to mood stabilizers

❑ Psychosocial Interventions

- Psychoeducational/Cognitive-Behavioral/Interpersonal Therapy Strategies

❑ Electroconvulsive Therapy

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder Psychopharmacology

- First Line Mood Stabilizers
 - Lithium
 - Valproate
 - Atypical Antipsychotics
- Second Line Agents
 - Carbamazepine/ oxcarbazepine
 - Lamotrigine (Effective for Bipolar Depression)
 - Clozapine
- Adjunctive Agents
 - Benzodiazepines
 - Antidepressants
 - Stimulants (for comorbid ADHD)

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Pharmacology

Child and Adolescent Bipolar Foundation Survey of children and adolescents diagnosed with bipolar disorder

- Anticonvulsants and Atypical Antipsychotics are agents most often used
- Polypharmacy is common
 - 14 % (n = 854) on 5 or more drugs

Hellander et al., 2002

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Pharmacology

- Kowatch et al., (2000): Open label trial (n = 40) found positive effects for valproate, lithium and carbamazepine
 - Response rates for the three agents were 53, 38 and 38 percent, respectively
- Geller et al., (2002) noted that treatment (including mood stabilizers and antipsychotics) did not influence outcome over a 24 month period
- Biederman et al., (1999) noted that mood stabilizers appeared helpful, whereas atypical antipsychotics, stimulants and antidepressants were not
- ☞ Juvenile mania may be more difficult to treat. Controlled trials are needed.

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Lithium

- ❑ Few Positive Small Controlled Trials for Youth with “manic-like” symptoms (DeLong and Neiman, 1983; McKnew et al., 1981)
- ❑ Helpful for Bipolar Disorder plus Substance Abuse in Adolescents (Geller et al., 1998)
- ❑ Large Open Label Trial (Kafantaris et al., 2003) (n = 100) had a 63% response rate in adolescents with Bipolar I
- Lithium FDA Approved for Youth 12 years of age or older with Bipolar

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Lithium

Dosing

- Serum Levels ranging from 0.6 – 1.2 mEq/L

Side Effects

- ☹ Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- ☹ Weight Gain, Acne, Enuresis
- ☹ Tremors
- ☹ Hypothyroidism
- ☹ Renal Problems

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Valproate

- ✓ FDA Approved for Acute Mania in Adults
- ✓ May work better for rapid cycling or mixed episodes
- ✓ No Controlled Trials for Juveniles

↩ Dosing

- ◆ Therapeutic Blood Levels 50 - 120 ug/ml

↩ Potential Side-Effects

- ◆ Hepatic
- ◆ Hematologic
- ◆ PolyCystic Ovary Disease
- ◆ Drug-Drug Interactions (e.g., BCP)

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Other Anticonvulsants

❑ Lamotrigine

- Effective In Adult Studies of Bipolar Depression
- Rash is greatest Concern

❑ Oxcarbazepine

- Few Adult Studies Show Efficacy

❑ Carbamazepine

- Adult Studies Not as Robust as for VPA

❑ Gabapentin

- Large Controlled Trial in Adults was negative

Psychopharmacology of Early Onset Bipolar Disorders

Atypical Antipsychotics

- ❑ Olanzapine FDA approved for Acute Mania
- ❑ Case Reports and Adult Studies Suggest that Atypical antipsychotics may be used as first line agents for youth with manic and mixed manic episodes
- ❑ Delbello et al., 2002: Double blind trial found quetiapine plus valproate superior to valproate alone for adolescent mania
- Youth may be at greater risk for problems with weight gain with atypical agents

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Olanzapine

Dosing

- ♦ 2.5 - 20 mg/day

Side Effects

- ♦ Weight Gain
 - ♦ Risk for Diabetes and Hyperlipidemia
- ♦ Sedation
- ♦ Reports of Elevated Liver Enzymes associated with Weight Gain

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Risperidone

Dosing

- ◆ 0.5 - 6.0 mg/day

Side Effects

- ◆ Weight Gain
 - ◆ Risk for Diabetes and Hyperlipidemia
- ◆ Extrapyramidal Side-Effects
 - Tardive Dyskinesia
 - Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome
- ◆ Reports of Elevated Liver Enzymes associated with Weight Gain

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Other Antipsychotics

❑ Quetiapine

- ♦ 25 - 800 mg/day
- ♦ Perhaps less weight gain than other agents

❑ Ziprasidone

- ♦ 20 – 160 mg
- ♦ Prolongs QTc interval
- ♦ Activation, may initiate mania in some patients

❑ Aripiprazole

- ♦ 10 – 30 mg/day
- ♦ Unique Mechanism of Action:
Partial D₂ & 5 HT_{1a} agonist: 5 HT_{2a} antagonist

Pediatric Psychopharmacology

Clozapine

- ❑ Very Effective Atypical Antipsychotic, but Side Effect Profile makes it second line drug

Side Effects

- Drooling
- Weight Gain
- Hypotension
- 5 % Risk of Seizures
- 1 % Risk of Agranulocytosis

➔ Extensive Monitoring Protocol

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Psychopharmacology

Combined Therapies

- Combinations of mood stabilizers may be helpful and appear well tolerated in youth (Findling et al., 2003; Kowatch et al., 2003).
- Kafantaris et al., (2001) found lower relapse rates when antipsychotic agents were maintained for at least four weeks, in combination with lithium
- Justification for polypharmacy better supported for classic bipolar versus bipolar nos.

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Antidepressants

- ❑ All Antidepressants have the potential risk of Inducing Mania
 - Antidepressants should only added to stable mood stabilizer regimens
 - SSRI's may cause irritability, dysinhibition, or hypomania, thus worsening aggression
 - FDA warnings regarding risk for increased suicidality in youth with Paroxetine
- ⇒ Lamotrigine Effective in Adult Studies of Bipolar Depression, may be a better alternative

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder

Stimulants

- Despite concerns to the contrary, methylphenidate has been found to be helpful in boys with ADHD plus “manic-like” symptoms (Carlson et al., 2002; Galanter et al., 2003)
- For clearly defined bipolar disorder, stimulants are generally avoided until mood symptoms are well controlled with mood stabilizers

Early Onset Bipolar Disorder Treatment Strategies

- ❑ Psychosocial Treatments as an adjunct to Medications
 - Parent/Family Psychoeducation
 - Relapse Prevention
 - CBT or IPT for Depression
 - Interpersonal and Social Rhythm Therapy
 - Family Focused Therapy
 - Community Support Programs