

# Review of: "Reasons for diagnostic delays in Bipolar Disorder: Systematic review and narrative synthesis"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

I would like to congratulate the authors for their work, given its importance and the need to carry out research to raise awareness of the need to improve treatment and eliminate the social barriers suffered by people with mental disorders. However, I consider that there are certain aspects of the work that should be revised:

1. In the introduction section, it would perhaps be advisable to better develop the definition of Bipolar Disorder, as well as types I<sup>o</sup> and II<sup>a</sup> as established by the DSM-V. This, together with possible comorbidities with other mental disorders, would help to better contextualise the problem and justify the need for this revision. At the same time, I consider it more polite to use the term "mental disorder" instead of "illness," using more inclusive language.
2. Regarding the methodology, while it is true that the work is recorded in the PROSPERO database, it is not specified which method is used to plan and carry out the review. I understand that you use PRISMA because of the flowchart, but you do not cite it in the references or mention it in the methodology; this should be checked. In the same flowchart, I note that the final works selected are 17, when in reality they are 21 due to the 4 that you use outside the databases. It would be interesting to include those 4 works in the diagram to help make everything clearer. Also, you should specify the Boolean descriptors used for the database search.
3. In the section on inclusion and exclusion criteria, an inclusion criterion has been established to accept papers in all languages, but at the same time, an exclusion criterion is elaborated for papers not written in English. I find this a bit contradictory.
4. Finally, in the results section, it would be highly recommendable to add a table listing the selected studies and their characteristics, which would greatly improve the work carried out.

I hope that my contributions can help to improve the quality of this work.