

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.

The purpose of the study was to investigate the factors that contribute to delays in the diagnosis of bipolar disorder. The authors identified five major themes that cause delays in diagnosis, including misdiagnosis, health challenges, mental health stigma, the complex nature of bipolar disorder, and individual factors. I found the article interesting and well-written. I agree with the comments raised by the other reviewers, to which I add a few below:

- I suggest that the authors report the results of the quality of bias assessment, at least in the supplementary material.
- There is a discrepancy in the number of articles retrieved, as the flow chart mentions 17 while the text mentions 21. This needs clarification.
- Although the abstract mentions the use of Braun and Clarke's Thematic Analysis, there are no details on this in the text. While the method is explained briefly in the Prospero registration, it should also be reported in the text.
- It would be helpful to include Tables 7 and 8 in the article itself and not just as supplementary material.