

# 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.

Abstract states inclusion of 21 studies, PRISMA diagram indicates 17 studies were included. With further reading of results, it seems 17 studies were quantitative, 3 were qualitative, and 1 utilised mixed methods, bringing the total to 21. This needs to be carefully reviewed by authors to ensure the numbers being reported are consistent and correctly reflect the evidence base utilised. Suggest the PRISMA diagram be updated as the diagram may be the only issue.

Suggest the findings be contextualised within the landscape of all mental health disorders and global mental health care, what is shared and what is unique to bipolar, else it does not provide a forward momentum. Ergo, it would be of value to contrast the findings with other severe mental health disorders (refer to other systematic reviews conducted in schizophrenia and depression as a minimum), i.e., do they share similar limitations to timely diagnosis? These limitations in diagnostic delay are shared or not shared by x or y; the key features related to bipolar are x when contrasted to y, which inhibits or delays timely diagnosis.