

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

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Potential competing interests: No competing interests to declare

This is a sound paper from a good institution with appropriate expertise.

My comments amount to minor revisions and can be dealt with fairly easily:

1. The literature searched covered 1972 onwards, yet all the papers dealing with delay were published between 2004 and 2022. It would be useful to know what the search terms were in the review. The diagnosis of manic-depressive psychosis continued to be used long after 1972 and should have been included as a search term.
2. One diagnosis that is often confused with bipolar disorder is borderline personality disorder, but it is not mentioned at all in this review. Bearing in mind that with the acceptance of Bipolar II in the latest classifications, there is likely to be even more argument about this diagnosis, I am surprised that it does not get mentioned. Some comment on the matter, one way or the other, is needed.
3. It is stated that one of the reasons for misdiagnosis is the patients who present with major depression only. Unless the clinician is possessed with a sixth sense, how can this be regarded as a missed diagnosis? It may be a concealed one, but not exactly missed.
4. What would be the nature of appropriate follow-up studies that might help here? Are you suggesting a structured delay in making the diagnosis if it is uncertain, or something else? Clinicians would be very keen to know.