Understanding Bipolar Disorder

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Biological differences
Symptoms.

Pathophysiological Processes. Signs and Symptoms.

The exact cause [and pathophysiology] of bipolar disorder is not known, but there may be several factors involved, such as:

- Genetic:
- Abnormalities in neurotransmitters
- Genetic markers

Symptoms can be described as:
- Depressive:
  - Anhedonia
  - Insomnia
  - Fatigue
  - Recurrent thoughts of death/suicide
- Manic:
  - Increased energy
  - Grandiosity
  - Increased sex drive

The pathophysiology of bipolar disorder involves changes in neurotransmitters and other factors, such as:
- Dopamine
- Serotonin

Intervention

Significance of pathophysiology

Significance of pathophysiology theories of bipolar disorder are explained by

Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder

According to Schub and Schub (2015), bipolar disorder is associated with extreme mood swings that include emotional highs (manic or hypomanic) and lows (depressive). Manic episodes may include:

- Increased energy
- Grandiosity
- Increased sex drive
- Increased socialization

Depressive episodes may include:

- Increased fatigue
- Increased social isolation
- Increased sleep

Conclusion

According to McInnes, Huether, and Brandt (2016), bipolar disorder is classified as bipolar I and bipolar II mood disorder. Bipolar I disorder is characterized by extreme mood swings involving manic episodes, depressive episodes, and mixed episodes. Bipolar II disorder involves episodes of hypomania and depressive episodes. Other symptoms include:

- Increased energy
- Grandiosity
- Increased socialization

Treatment for bipolar disorder involves:

- Medication
- Psychotherapy


Table 1: Relative incidence of weight gain with selected psychotropic medications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antidepressant</th>
<th>Antipsychotic</th>
<th>Mood Stabilizer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aripiprazole</td>
<td>Aripiprazole</td>
<td>Aripiprazole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quetiapine</td>
<td>Quetiapine</td>
<td>Quetiapine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paliperidone</td>
<td>Paliperidone</td>
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</table>

References


