

P01-241

BIPOLAR DISORDER IN CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE

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Introduction: The diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder (BD) is still controversial in the early stages of life, not only because of its difficulty, but also because of the precaution of professionals with this diagnosis, since it is a chronic illness.

Aims: To review and synthesize available information about paediatric BD.

Methods: The authors consulted, selected and reviewed information concerning the theme, mainly searched on-line articles.

Results: It is difficult to diagnose BD in youths, considering the fewer specific symptoms and the high co-morbidity.

Conclusions: Despite some disagreement on this diagnosis, BD is a valid clinical entity in children and adolescents.