

SUICID IN PATIENTS WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER

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The assessment and prevention of suicide is one of the main roles of a psychiatrist and mental care providers. Suicidal behaviour is extremely common in bipolar disorder. Depression, mixed features, comorbidity, depressive predominant polarity, family history, diagnostic subtype II, and previous attempts are associated to higher suicide risk. Untreated bipolar disorder carries high risk of suicide. Effective acute and long-term pharmacological treatment of bipolar disorder decreases suicide risk. Combined psychotherapy may further improve suicide prevention.