

## Children With Bipolar Often Receive Diagnosis Late

That's the conclusion of a new study that examined age at diagnosis versus age when symptoms first appeared. The study, conducted in Spain, found that only about 25% of children with bipolar disorder were diagnosed within 7 months of symptom onset. For another 50%, it took a year and a half to about three and a half years to be diagnosed correctly. The final 25% took even longer.

A 2005 study by the same researcher found that paediatric bipolar disorder was diagnosed far less in Europe than in the United States. Whether that tendency influenced the late diagnosis of the children in the study is yet to be determined.

About.com

## Difference Between Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder

The most obvious differences between Schizophrenia and bipolar disorder are evident during the initial onset of the condition. Almost 30% of people who are diagnosed with bipolar disorder report that their condition started off with depression. A similar number of people also report that they had manic symptoms when their disease first started off. Only 9% of those surveyed remember psychotic experiences at the start of the disease. As opposed to this, people who have been diagnosed with Schizophrenia have reported mostly bizarre and odd delusions at the onset of the disease.

Another difference in the symptoms can also be identified. For instance, bipolar patients are usually social in nature, especially when they are not depressed. You will remember that patients of bipolar disorder are prone to extremes of moods. At one time they are very social and active, while at other times, they are inactive and depressed. On the other hand, patients with Schizophrenia are usually withdrawn in nature.

# IN THE MOOD

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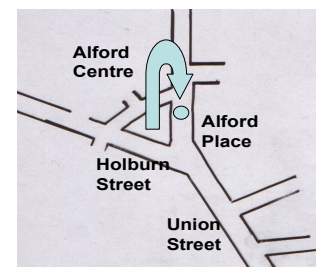
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## Message from the Board

The Board of Bipolar Aberdeen welcome's Gavin back to the office after a number of weeks away. Unfortunately, during this time the office and the helpline had to be closed and we hope that this did not cause you too much inconvenience.

The office and helpline will again close for a short period of time in November, approximately 10 days, to allow the requisite time off to be given to Gavin.

On a brighter note, it is good to see a number of volunteers helping out in the office, and it is with their assistance that this newsletter has been produced and distributed to you.

The Board also wishes to hear people's views on the service provided by Bipolar Aberdeen and will shortly be issuing a questionnaire to you to establish your views.

Thank you – The Board

## OFFICE NEWS

As you are aware we have been closed for the last seven weeks due to staff shortages due to ill health. We are sorry for ant inconvenience that this has caused.

However on a brighter note we are open again and the service is back to almost normal opening hours.

The drop-in and help line will be open as normal on Mondays and Fridays from 10am—4pm and Thursdays from 1pm-4pm.

The monthly evening meetings are currently suspended, we will let you know when they are restarted.

Gavin

## Future events

We will be closed from 9th to the 15th of November, we will be open again on November the 16th due to staff holidays.

## Bipolar May be outgrown

A new research effort has come to the conclusion that bipolar disorder may dissipate as young adults mature.

The university of Missouri researchers now suggest that nearly half of those diagnosed between the ages of 18 and 25 may outgrow bipolar disorder by the time they reach 30.

Researchers predict the prevalence of the disorder could be affected by brain development, particularly the prefrontal cortex, the very front of the brain. The prefrontal cortex is thought to control perception , senses, personality and intelligence. In particular, it controls reactions to social situations, which can be a challenge for people with bipolar disorder.

While some scholars suggest that the difference could be due to early mortality.

Source: university of Missouri

## Vincent van Gogh genius gene discovered by scientists

Scientists believe they have pinpointed the gene that creates geniuses such as artist Vincent van Gogh.

Researchers in Hungary discovered a gene called neuregulin 1 helps the development of creativity. But it is also linked to psychosis and mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. The scientists tested volunteers from creative backgrounds. One researcher said: "The results show a clear link between neuregulin 1 and creativity.

"Volunteers with the specific variant of this gene were more likely to have higher scores on the creativity assessment."

Mirror online