The current status of the diagnosis of Pediatric bipolar disorder

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This presentation will examine the purported logic behind the creation of the pediatric bipolar diagnosis, some of the current thinking on bipolar disorders, and the pros and cons of various interventions. It begins with the history of the diagnosis of "pediatric bipolar". Whereas children were almost never diagnosed with this disorder in the early 1990s, the promotion of this diagnosis led to its becoming the most frequent diagnoses for children who were hospitalized in psychiatric facilities in 2004. It was a factor in generating the controversy around the release of the DSM-V. Allen Francis, Chairperson for the 1994 DSM-IV, attributes his activism, which eventuated in numerous articles, a blog, and his book, Saving Normal, to "kids getting unneeded antipsychotics that would make them gain 12 pounds in 12 weeks." This diagnosis was a stimulus for the congressional hearing in December of 2011 on the large number of foster children who are being treated with antipsychotic medications, many of whom were diagnosed with "pediatric bipolar". This presentation offers an overview of the questions raised in light of the latest literature.

New technologies for the early identification of children with dysfunctions

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In the USA the average age of diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is approximately 4 years. The cause of this delay in diagnosis is in part due to the problem of educating pediatricians in regard to normal social and emotional development. Language development information is also often unavailable. In order to rectify this problem, we have developed an APP to be used by parents which is based on the research literature and research with over 1000 children ages, 8 to 36 months. This APP is easy to use and generates a score of Normal (green), Suspect (yellow) and Red (in need of care!). Pediatricians have available parental reports and can use this for further evaluation of their child. Preliminary data indicates that using pediatricians who are specialists in developmental disabilities who diagnose in regard to parental report shows significant sensitivity and suggests this is an instrument that can aid in early diagnoses.