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# Zebra Fish (*Danio rerio*) Diving into Bipolar Disorder

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## Abstract

Bipolar disorder is a chronic neurological disorder. It is the 6th major ailment which affect 1% of the world population. Lithium is the only classic drug available because the molecular mechanisms of remain unclear. It is difficult to establish in vitro adequate models for pathological analysis because of the heterogeneity of this disorders. The active principle of herbal preparations like ginseng, ephedra sinica, Brindle berry, clove etc. are able to decrease the symptoms of bipolar disorder. Zebrafish and human share 71% of the same genes and 82% of genes associated with human diseases and rapid development and easy to handle. Due to this fact scientist improved the usage of Zebrafish in preclinical screening, as a prominent model in drug discovery and development for neurological disorders. Different procedures are available to study the stress or depression level. They are highly sensitive to psychotropic drugs and different methods like novel tank test, light and dark box method, cognitive model, social model and net stress model are some of the behavioral models performed on Zebrafish. Our work summarizes the growing utility of Zebrafish in pharmacy research and its benefits to overcome the hurdles in the discovery of drugs for neurological disorders.

Keywords: Bipolar disorder; Zebra fish; Lithium; Tank test

## Introduction

Bipolar disorder is a chronic mental disorder and it is also called as manic depression sickness [1]. It is the 6th major causes, between at the age of 19 to 45 years and the average age-of-onset is about 25 years, but it can also occur in the teens, or more uncommonly, in children [2,3]. It's approximately over 1.1 billion peoples had a mental disorder in 2016 [4]. If bipolar disorder is not given medically it left untreated. However, with a good therapy plan including psychotherapy, medications, a healthy lifestyle, a regular schedule and early identification of symptoms, many people live well with the condition [5]. This disorder has four basic types, bipolar I disorder, with mania and typically repeated depression, and bipolar II disorder, with repeated major depression and hypomania. Patients with bipolar disorder spend the time in experiencing sadness [6]. Cyclothymic Disorder or Cyclothymia is a chronically unbalanced mood state in which people experience hypomania and mild depression for at least two years. People with cyclothymia may have brief periods of common mood, but these periods last less than 8th weeks. Bipolar Disorder, "other specified" and "unspecified" is when a person does not meet the criteria for bipolar I, II or cyclothymia but has still experienced periods of clinically significant abnormal mood elevation [7].

## Epidermology

Compared to depression, anxiety, modern epidemiological studies demonstrated very low life prevalence rate for bipolar disorder [8]. Epidemiological studies had suggested a lifetime prevalence of around 0.6% for bipolar disorder in the general population [9]. This class includes a range of disorders with substance use disorder, depression, anxiety, bipolar, schizophrenia, alcohol and drug use disorders. In the below pie chart and graph it shows the global population percentage with different types of disorders. It's estimates that over7.4 billion people are in worldwide in that 1.1 billion people had a substance use disorder [around 1-in-6 peoples (15-20%)] in 2016. A large number of people had an anxiety disorder, estimated at around 4% of the population. The prevalence of depression disorder-It mostly between 2% and 6% around the world. The prevalence of anxiety disorders-It across the world varies from 2.5 to 6.5% by country. The prevalence of bipolar disorder-It across the world varies from 0.4 to 1.5% by country. The prevalence of schizophrenia-It across the world varies from 0.2 to 0.45% by country. The prevalence of alcohol use disorder-It across the world varies from 1.4% by country. The prevalence of drug use disorder-It across the world varies from 0.9% by country (Table 1, Figures 1 and 2) [10].



Disorder	Share of global population with disorder (2016)	Share of males with the disorder (2016)	Share of females with the disorder (2016)
Substance use disorder	15.5% (1.1 billion)	8.3% males	7.2% females
Depression	4% (268 million)	1.8% males	2.2% females
Anxiety disorders	4% (275 million)	1.6% males	2.4% females
Bipolar disorder	0.6% (40 million)	0.3% males	0.3% females
Schizophrenia	0.3% (21 million)	0.15% males	0.15% females
Alcohol use disorder	1.4% (100 million) 1.05% males		0.35% females
Drug use disorder	0.9% (62 million)	0.75% males	0.15% females

**Table 1:** Share of global population with different mental disorder.



## Pathophysiology of Bipolar Disorder

Bipolar disorder has been thought to be a deficiency of the monoamines in the cortical and limbic systems called the monoamine hypothesis (serotonin, norepinephrine and dopamine). The pathophysiology of depression is also explain by a newer neurotropic hypothesis. It suggests that certain nerve growth factor, like brain derived neurotropic factor (BDNF), control neurogenesis. Loss of the neurotropic effects leads to atrophic changes in certain parts of the brain and is associated with depression.

## Mechanism of Action for Bipolar Disorder

## Effect on electrolytes

Lithium can complete with and replace sodium at many sites including neurons. It may alter neuronal functions resulting in its mood stabilizing effects.

## G-protein

Lithium inhibits the receptor mediated activation of G proteins in the CNS. This action could be responsible for its mood stabilizing action.

#### Neurotransmitters

Lithium inhibits the release of noradrenaline and dopamine from the nerve terminals. Lithium also prevents the super sensitivity of the receptors induced by dopamine antagonists (Antipsychotics).

#### **Inositol pathway**

Lithium interferes with the regeneration of inositol. It inhibits inositol monophosphatase and other enzymes are thereby inhibits the conversion of IP3 inositol, leading to a depletion of phosphatidyl insorbitolplate (PIP2). This results in a reduction in the formation of the second messengers IP3 and DAG leading to a reduction in the receptor activity. Lithium selectively inhibits signal transduction in the hyper functioning neurons as seen in mania.

Lithium inhibits monophosphatase that convert IP to inositol [11].

#### Symptoms

- Extreme grumpiness
- Talk rapidly [12]
- Excessive confidence
- Trust that nothing is wrong
- Thinking they can do anything [13].

#### Treatment for bipolar disorder

Mood stabilizing for the treatment of mania.

**First line:** Lithium, Divalproex, Carbamazepine, Olanzapine, Risperidone, Ziprasidone, Quetiapine, Aripiprazole, Electroconvulsive therapy

**Second line:** Clozapine, Haloperidol, Chlorpromazine, Clonazepam, Lorazepam [14].

**Maintenance therapy:** Use of first line drugs like Lithium for high quality and effective

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**Side effects:** Increase in weight/obesity, metabolic dysregulation, sedation/somnolence, akathisia, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and hyperglycemia [15].

## Herbal preparation

Herbal preparation is given below in Table 2.

Plant name	Plant parts used	Chemical constituents	Research work done by
St John's wort (hypericum perforatum) [16]	Flower	Phenylpropanes, Flavanol, Glycosides, Bi Flavones, Tannins and Proanthocyanidins, Essential oils, phloroglucinols, amino acids, Xanthones, Naphthodianthrones [17]	jerome Sarris and David J Kavanagh [21]
Ginseng (panax ginseng)	Root	insenosides or panaxosides, are triterpenes of dammarane and oleanane [18]	Haim Einat [22]
Brindle berry (garcinia cambogia)	Fruit	Citric acid lactone, Ascorbic acid, tartaric acid, malic acid, Garcinol, isogarcinol, cyanidin and Xanthone. The latex of Garcinia cambogia contains two polyisoprenylated benzophenone derivatives, camboginol (I) and cambogin (II) [19].	Brian P. Hendrickson, MD, a Noreen Shaikh, AB, a Mallay Occhiogrosso, MD, a and Julie B. Penzner, MDa [23]
Ma-huang (ephedra sinica)	Stem	sympathomimetic alkaloids, ephedrine, and pseudoephedrine [20]	Vincent Morelli, M.D., And Roger J. Zoorob, M.D., M.P.H [24]

Table 2: Herbal preparation.

## Zebrafish and Behavioral Study

Zebrafish are freshwater fish that, over the last forty years, has become a popular model organism for researches into vertebrate genetics, development, regeneration, and toxicology [25]. Both larval and adult Zebrafish have many behaviours amenable to study more human related diseases. The Zebrafish genome has been completely sequenced and the majority of genes are common to humans with 84% of genes known to be associated with human disease having Zebrafish counterparts [26].

### Behavioral studies on Zebrafish

Novel tank test- Increased: Geotaxis, thigmotaxis.

**Increased:** Latency to enter, number of erratic movements, frequency and duration of freezing behaviours;

**Reduced:** Number of transitions, time spent, exploratory behaviour; Altered swim speed.

Light/dark box Increased: Scototaxis (adult), phototaxis (lavae).

**Cognition-Reduced levels of:** associative learning, spatial learning, memory (e.g., long-term, spatial, cued), habituation to novelty.

Social-Increased: duration of shoal cohesion;

**Reduced:** latency to shoal cohesion, social distance, duration away from the shoal, various neurochemical alterations (e.g., serotonin, dopamine) [27].

### On mice

Forced swim test (FST): Increased - immobility.

Reduced - muscle movement [28].

**Tail suspension test (TST):** TST mice are placed in an inescapable but moderately stressful situation. Lack of escape related behaviour is considered immobility [29].

## Conclusion

Bipolar disorder is a chronic neurological disorder. Bipolar is not curable disorder. Lithium are the classic drug is given with other drugs to decrease the signs and symptoms. The herbal preparations like ginseng, ephedra sinica, Brindle berry, clove etc. used to decrease the symptoms. Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) are the freshwater fish it is related to human diseases. Different procedures are available to study the stress or depression level. Experimental animals like mice and fishes are used for neurological disorders nowadays. Different methods like novel tank test, light and dark box method, cognitive model, social model and net stress model are some of the behavioral models performed on Zebrafish and in mice forced swim test and tail suspension test are the methods used for researches.

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