

## Data supplement

<b>Table DS1</b> Clinical features and course of bipolar illness in participants with bipolar disorder with a high burden of comorbid medical illness (three or more medical illnesses, bipolar+3M) compared with those participants with bipolar disorder with no history of medical illness (bipolar+0M)			
	Bipolar+0M ( <i>n</i> = 440) <sup>a</sup>	Bipolar+3M ( <i>n</i> = 202) <sup>a</sup>	<i>P</i>
DSM-IV, <i>n</i> (%)			
Bipolar I disorder	314 (71.4)	140 (69.3)	0.641
Bipolar II disorder	126 (28.6)	62 (30.7)	
Illness duration, years: median (IQR) range	19 (1–57) 16	32 (4–57) 14.75	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Age at onset, years: median (IQR) range	20 (7–55) 10	20 (6–61) 12	0.925
Onset of mood episodes typically acute, within a week, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	41 (9.3)	32 (15.8)	<b>0.012</b>
No	399 (90.7)	170 (84.2)	
Total number of psychiatric admissions lifetime ever			
Median (mean)	2 (2)	2 (4.3)	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
IQR (range)	0–25 (3)	0–61(5)	
Ever sectioned under Mental Health Act, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	145 (33.0)	73 (36.1)	0.241
No	295 (67.0)	129 (63.9)	
Psychotic symptoms present lifetime ever, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	235 (64.2)	173 (61.8)	0.380
No	131 (35.8)	107 (38.2)	
Anxiety disorder present lifetime ever, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	193 (49.9)	145 (75.1)	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
No	194 (50.1)	48 (24.9)	
Suicide attempt present lifetime ever, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	215 (48.9)	124 (61.4)	<b>0.002</b>
No	225 (51.1)	78 (38.6)	
Rapid cycling present lifetime ever, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	99 (33.2)	59 (45.4)	<b>0.011</b>
No	199 (66.8)	71 (54.6)	
Deterioration in functioning, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	143 (39.7)	81 (52.9)	<b>0.004</b>
No	217 (60.3)	72 (47.1)	
Positive response to lithium treatment, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	146 (86.9)	86 (90.5)	0.252
No	22 (13.1)	9 (9.5)	
Lifetime diagnosis of alcohol misuse, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	106 (28.7)	47 (28.8)	0.529
No	263 (71.3)	116 (71.2)	
Ever been a regular smoker, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	221 (54.2)	87 (49.4)	0.168
No	187 (45.8)	89 (50.6)	
Ever taken antidepressants, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	400 (93)	182 (95.3)	0.187
No	30 (7)	9 (4.7)	
Ever taken anxiolytics, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	258 (61.9)	138 (75.8)	<b>0.001</b>
No	159 (38.1)	44 (24.2)	
Ever taken mood stabilisers, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	358 (83.4)	170 (89.5)	<b>0.031</b>
No	71 (16.6)	20 (10.5)	
Ever taken antipsychotics, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	328 (78.3)	155 (81.6)	0.206
No	91 (21.7)	35 (18.4)	
Electroconvulsive therapy, <i>n</i> (%)			
Yes	64 (14.8)	57 (29.8)	<b>0.000016</b>
No	368 (85.2)	134 (70.2)	

a. For some variables because of missing data *n* is less than *n* = 440 and *n* = 202 for BD+0M and BD+3M, respectively.