

Week 9: Bipolar Concept Map



Master of Science in Nursing, Walden

University NURS 6501: Advanced

Pathophysiology

Dr. Latoya Wells



Bipolar Concept Map

Primary Diagnosis: Bipolar Disorder

1. Describe the pathophysiology of the primary diagnosis in your own words. What are the patient's risk factors for this diagnosis?

Pathophysiology of Primary Diagnosis	
Bipolar disorder is a mental disorder where the patients experience extreme energy shifts from highs (Bipolar one) or extreme lows (Bipolar two). The pathophysiology relates to imbalanced neurotransmitters such as serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine though it is not clear exactly what the relationship is.	
Causes	Risk Factors (genetic/ethnic/physical)
Genetics: The gene called catechol-O-methyltransferase (COMT) controls the metabolite of dopamine and is associated with BD (Milowitz & Johnson, 2002). A first degree relative with BD places incidence rates at two to three times more likely (McCrance & Huether, 2019). Neurotransmitters- serotonin, dopamine, and norepinephrine imbalance affecting the metabolite bi-product of dopamine in the pre-frontal cortex appears to be what leads to the mood dysregulation (McIntyre & Calabrese	• Higher incident rates in those with a first- degree relative with bipolar disorder. (Miclowitz & Johnson, 2006). • Periods of high stress such as the death of a loved one or other traumatic event (Miclowitz & Johnson, 2006). • Drug or alcohol abuse