

Impact of Bipolar Disorder on the Individual/Family

Persons diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder tend to have:

- ✓ **Serious occupational problems**
- ✓ **Social difficulties**
- ✓ **Withdrawal**
- ✓ **Loss of intimate relationships**
- ✓ **Job loss**
- ✓ **Dependence on family and others**
- ✓ **Family conflicts**
- ✓ **Disruption in social routines**
- ✓ **Mood swings create family, peer and relationship turmoil**
- ✓ **Relationships that are tested**
- ✓ **High risk for divorce**

At Risk Parenting When a Parent is Diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder

Infancy:

- **Disorganized, inconsistent, ineffective, tense, unhappy**
- **Less interactive with child**
- **Infants more likely to show insecure, avoidant attachment style**

Preschoolers:

- **Fewer problems than unipolar (depressed) parents**

School Age Children:

- **Express more anger in family interactions**
- **More child behavioral problems at age 9 than during adolescence**
- **Fewer interactions between child and parent; child less happy, ill at ease with parent**

Adolescents:

- **More negative and critical of child behavior (especially daughters)**
- **Negatively interacting family groups**
- **Family discord leads to improved adjustment in girls**