1. Record Nr. UNINA9910451219503321 Bipolar II disorder: modelling, measuring, and managing / / edited by Titolo Gordon Parker; with the editorial assistance of Kerrie Evers [[electronic resource]] Cambridge:,: Cambridge University Press,, 2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-281-25468-1 9786611254681 0-511-38773-3 0-511-38674-5 0-511-38491-2 0-511-38306-1 0-511-54418-9 0-511-38874-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xiii, 304 pages) : digital, PDF file(s) Collana Cambridge medicine Disciplina 616.895 Soggetti Manic-depressive illness Manic-depressive illness - Diagnosis Manic-depressive illness - Etiology Manic-depressive illness - Treatment Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 05 Oct 2015). Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Cover; Half-title; Title; Copyright; Contents; Contributors; Preface; Introduction; 1 Bipolar disorder in historical perspective; 2 The bipolar spectrum; 3 Defining and measuring Bipolar II Disorder; 4 Bipolar II Disorder in context: epidemiology, disability and economic burden; 5 Is Bipolar II Disorder increasing in prevalence?; 6 The neurobiology of Bipolar II Disorder; 7 The role of antidepressants in managing Bipolar II Disorder: 8 The use of SSRIs as mood stabilisers for Bipolar II Disorder: 9 Mood stabilisers in the treatment of Bipolar II Disorder

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psychological interventions in managing Bipolar II Disorder; 13 The role

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Sommario/riassunto

Bipolar depression is now known to exist as a spectrum of disorders rather than a single disease entity. Bipolar II Disorder exists on this spectrum as a condition where the depressive episodes are as severe as in Bipolar I Disorder, but where the mood elevation states are not as extreme. This unexpected combination can lead to a failure to detect a condition thought to affect up to 6% of the population. This book reviews, for the first time, our knowledge of this debilitating disorder, covering its history, classification and neurobiology. In a unique section, fourteen internationally recognised experts debate management strategies, building to some consensus, and resulting in treatment guidelines where no such advice currently exists. It should be read by all health professionals managing mood disorders and will be informative to those wishing to learn more about the condition.