The Longitudinal Course of Adolescent Bipolar Disorder as Revealed Through Weekly Self-Report, Using Internet and Text-Messaging-Based Mood Monitoring

by

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BACKGROUND: Most longitudinal research in adolescent and adult bipolar populations relies on the memory of participants recalling historical moods spanning months or even years. Asking people to recall these historical mood episodes subjects resulting data to recall biases. The current study aims to examine the feasibility and validity of a method for collecting course of illness data in real-time, from adolescents with bipolar I and II disorder using the TrueColours Self-Management System (TCSMS), a text-message and Internet-based mood monitoring system for individuals with bipolar disorder.

METHODS: A total of 18 adolescents (male = 6, female = 12; mean age = 17) with bipolar disorder (BPI = 12, BPII = 6) and 22 (male = 12, female = 10; mean age = 15) adolescents without any mood disorder, provided mood ratings in response to weekly cell phone textmessage or email prompts (Text = 15, Email = 3) for 3 months. Participants provided weekly ratings on the Altman Self-Rating Mania Scale and the Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptoms Self-Report. Comparisons on time spent with mood symptoms were made between the bipolar and control groups.

RESULTS: Control participants were significantly more adherent to the TCSMS weekly protocol than bipolar participants. By TCSMS ratings, bipolar participants differed from controls both the average severity of depressive symptoms and in the variability of depressive symptoms over time. Bipolar subjects reported the majority of weeks with depressive symptoms; of depressed weeks, the majority were spent with mild symptoms. Bipolar and control participants did not differ on average severity of reported mania symptoms, variability of these symptoms over, or number of polarity switches. Among the bipolar participants, higher mania ratings were associated with more polarity switches over time. More time with manic symptoms predicted more time spent with mixed manic and depressive symptoms.

CONCLUSIONS: The TCSMS may be a reliable alternative to clinician-gathered, retrospective data in the longitudinal course of adolescent bipolar disorder. However, the study is limited by shorter follow-up duration, that may not have allowed sufficient time for manic symptoms to present themselves, resulting in lack of differentiation between bipolar and control participants

DEDICATION

For Grace

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Methods to efficiently and accurately distinguish between normal adolescent moodiness and bipolar disorder are integral to early intervention. Adolescent-onset bipolar disorder is a debilitating illness with a chronic course and generally poor outcome (Biederman, Mick, Faraone, Van Patten, Burback, & Wozniak 2004). Adolescent bipolar disorder is a serious public health problem (Faedda, et al., 1995) and children and adolescents with bipolar disorder account for a significant number of emergency home visits and psychiatric hospitalizations and suffer from one of the most impairing forms of psychopathology (Biederman, 1998). In a sample of 529 adults with early (ages 13 to 18) onset bipolar disorder, Post et al. (2010) found an inverse correlation between age at onset and initial diagnosis. This delay in diagnosis and treatment was associated with a more severe and chronic illness course. Given the lag in symptom onset and accurate diagnosis and treatment, early detection and treatment is essential in mitigating harmful and potentially fatal outcomes.

Bipolar disorder exacts a significant toll on the health and well being of diagnosed individuals, their caregivers, and family members. Bipolar disorder is associated with increased risk for serious health problems. Individuals with bipolar disorder are at risk for developing heart disease and diabetes mellitus (Kupfer, 2005). An individual with bipolar disorder is at significantly higher risk for both attempted suicide as well as completed suicide than an individual without such a diagnosis (Tondo Isacsson, & Baldessarini, 2003).

In an analysis of over 300,000 employees across six companies, Goetzel, Hawkins, Ozminkowski, and Wang (2003) found that the expenses associated with the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder were more costly to employers than major depression, alcoholism or anxiety disorders. Begley, Annengers, Swann, Lewis, Coan, Schnapp, and Bryant-Coomstock (2001) estimated the total lifetime cost of treating individuals with bipolar disorder in the United States in 1998 to be approximately 24 billion dollars. They estimated the lifetime cost of treating a single bipolar individual to range from approximately eleven thousand dollars for an individual with a single manic episode, to over six hundred thousand dollars for the treatment of a chronically ill individual. Identification and treatment of bipolar disorder at an early age could mitigate many of these devastating personal and financial consequences of the disorder. While there are no studies directly examining cost-savings related to early intervention, hospitalization does account for a substantial portion of direct costs associated with treatment of individuals with bipolar disorder (Begley, et al. 2001). Peele, Xu and Kupfer (2003) analyzed insurance claims for over 1.5 million individuals over the course of one year, and found that for every dollar spent on the outpatient treatment of bipolar disorder, \$1.80 was spent on inpatient hospitalization. Goldberg and Ernst (2002) found that delay in the onset of affective symptoms to the identification and treatment if bipolar disorder resulted in an increase in frequency of inpatient hospitalizations. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that early intervention would in fact, defray direct costs via reduction in hospitalization and indirect costs via decreased financial burdens on caregivers.

The long-term prognosis for individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorder in adolescence is poor relative to prognosis for individuals diagnosed in early adulthood or later. Compared with adult-onset bipolar disorder, adolescent-onset bipolar is associated with more cycling between mood states, more chronic depression, and more lifetime manic and hypomanic episodes (Leverich, Post, Keck, Altshuler, Frye, et al., 2007). Individuals with onset of bipolar disorder between the ages of 13 and 18 are more likely that those who experience onset in adulthood, to have more severe depressions and manias, longer depressive episodes, and more days of ultradian or within-day mood cycling (Post, Leverich, Kupka, Keck, McElroy, Altschuler, Frye, Luckenbaugh, Rowe, Grunze, Suppes, & Nolen, 2010). Adolescents and young adults with bipolar disorder are at considerably higher risk for suicide than adults with bipolar disorder (Osby, Brandt, Correia, Aekbom, & Sparén, 2001). Adolescents with bipolar disorder are more likely to have trouble in school and with peer relations than adolescents without bipolar disorder (Geller, Bolhofner, Craney, Williams, DelBello, & Gunderson, 2000).

Diagnostic challenges. The question of whether or not the combination of pathological mood lability and behavioral problems that are diagnosed as bipolar disorder in adolescence is the same illness described in The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (American Psychiatric Association, 2000) (DSM-IV) remains largely unanswered. Until the latter quarter of the 20th century, it was widely believed that children and adolescents did not experience the range of mood fluctuation associated with bipolar disorder. In the inaugural edition of the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, Anthony and Scott (1960) conducted a review of research on "manic-depressive psychosis" and concluded the disorder was not common.

Although mania and depression in adolescents were reported as early as the late 19th century, the prevailing psychoanalytic theories of the mid 20th century dismissed the existence of the illness in this age group (Faedda, Baldessarini, Suppes, Tondo, Becker, & Lipschitz. 1995). Psychoanalytic theorists assumed that because the development of the superego, which was conceptualized as the mechanism responsible for extremes of emotional experience, did not develop until adulthood, it was simply not possible that young people could experience the extreme range of moods that afflicted adult patients.

Attitudes changed considerably toward the latter half of the 20th century (Pavuluri, Birhamer and Naylor, 2005). While the existence of bipolar disorder in adolescence is no longer controversial per se (Miklowitz and Johnson, 2006), considerable debate exists about very basic questions related to prevalence and course of illness.

Lack of consensus on the etiology of adolescent-onset bipolar disorder creates substantial challenges in interpreting the current body of research, and in the development of clinical tools. Bipolar disorder appeared in 1952 in the first edition of *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* as "manic depressive reaction," In the subsequent editions of DSM, II, III, III-R, IV, IV-TR published in 2000, a total of 48 years, and seven editions of the manual, there is no mention of a child or adolescent analog.

The recently published DSM-5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) provides a new diagnosis of "Disruptive Mood Regulation Disorder," (DMDD). This additional diagnosis was borne out of attempts of the Childhood and Adolescent Disorders DSM-5 working group to delineate presentations of pediatric and adolescent bipolar disorder that did not fit the exact diagnostic parameters of the adult illness as described in prior editions. The final product, however would appear to be more of a "horse designed by committee" than a useful and precise tool to provide guidance in diagnosing bipolar disorder in adolescence.

DSM-5 does not resolve the issue by creating a set of diagnostic criteria for children and adolescents with bipolar disorder. This may result from the lack of consistency among results of longitudinal research, and a lack of longer-term studies that follow children diagnosed with bipolar disorder through to adulthood. We still do not have a satisfying answer to the oft-asked question: "what happens to these kids when they grow up?" While adults typically experience euphoric and grandiose mania, adolescents more often experience severe emotional dysregulation, aggression, and irritability (Biederman, 2006). Typical presentation of mania in adolescents involves severe irritability, emotional lability, and violent and aggressive outbursts or "affective storms" (Davis, 1979). Compared with the more common episodic mood fluctuations seen in adult bipolar disorder, adolescents tend to cycle rapidly even within a single day, or to have mixed states (a combination of depression and mania, best conceptualized of as a highly agitated and energized combination of depression and irritability). Additionally the course of the illness over the lifespan is more chronic for those with illness-onset in adolescence than it is for individuals with bipolar disorder that appears later (Biederman, Faraone, Mick, Wozniak, Chen, et al., 1996, Kim & Miklowitz, 2002).

Prevalence. In a review of the last 10 years of research on adolescent bipolar disorder, Pavuluri et al. (2005) reported prevalence rates for adolescent bipolar disorder of less than 2% in the general population. Using consensus scores on the Washington University Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia mania and rapid cycling and depression sections (KSADS-MRS and DRS) and the Children's Interview for Psychiatric Symptoms (ChIPS) to determine bipolar disorder diagnoses in a group of 391 adolescents admitted to an inpatient psychiatric hospital, Hunt and colleagues found significantly higher prevalence rates of up to 20% (Hunt, Armstrong, Litvin, Sheeran & Spirito, 2006). The discrepancy in prevalence rates between general and hospitalized populations indicates the disorder is severe enough to require hospitalization for a significant number of individuals and that bipolar disorder accounts for a significant number of psychiatric hospitalizations in juvenile inpatient units. In a sample of 50 youth aged 11 to 17 in a juvenile detention facility, 22% of subjects met criteria for mania (Pliszka, Sherman, Barrow, & Irick, 2000). High prevalence rates in hospitalized and

incarcerated populations suggest bipolar disorder in adolescent populations is associated with significant functional impairment and developmental disruption.

Bipolar disorder is typically diagnosed in young adulthood, with a mean age of onset of 18 years (Merikangas, Akiskal, Anheygst, Greenberg, Hirschfeld, Petukhova, et al., 2007). It appears however, that many individuals present symptoms of bipolar disorder significantly earlier. Perlis and colleagues (2004) interviewed individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorder and based on these interviews, found that of nearly 1000 individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorder, over 27% would have qualified for a diagnosis of bipolar disorder at or before age 13, and over 37% would have qualified for diagnosis at or before age 18. Chang, Steiner, and Ketter (2000) found 44% of adult bipolar participants had a mean age of onset of 14.8 years, suggesting a large population of children likely remain undiagnosed or misdiagnosed during a time when bipolar-specific interventions could positively impact future outcomes.

Course of Bipolar Disorder: Adults

Bipolar disorder is fundamentally conceptualized of in terms of fluctuation and change in mood over time. Therefore, nearly all research on bipolar disorder must be longitudinal in nature. Adult bipolar tends to be a chronic, recurrent illness. The predominant mood polarity is depressive, and more time is spent either depressed or manic/hypomanic than euthymic.

Using self-reported data gathered daily over the course of one year, Kupka and colleagues (2007) followed 507 adults diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Subjects spent three times more days depressed than manic or hypomanic and were euthymic approximately 50% of assessed weeks. Participants in this study made daily ratings using the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Life Chart, which were evaluated by clinicians during weekly or monthly

clinic visits. Clinicians adjusted these Life Chart ratings based on their knowledge of participant's tendencies to over or under report symptoms.

Judd et al. (2003c) followed 135 adult bipolar I and 71 bipolar II individuals for up to 20 years. Participants were interviewed every six months for the first five years of the study, and then annually for the next 15 years. Judd et al. found that individuals with bipolar I and II experienced subsyndromal depression and hypomania compared to syndromal depressive or manic symptoms at a ratio of three to one. Additionally, it was found that individuals with bipolar II were euthymic 53.4 % of the time, and that individuals with bipolar II were euthymic 44.2% of the time.

Judd, Akiskal, Schettler, Coryell, Endicott, Maser, Solomon, Leon, and Keller (2003b) followed a group of 86 adults with bipolar II disorder who were assessed at 6 or 12 month intervals for approximately 13 years. Participants experienced 50 % of all follow-up weeks with depressive symptoms compared to 1.3 % of follow up weeks with hypomanic symptoms. Participants were euthymic for an average of 46.1 % of assessed weeks. This study used the same mood recall techniques as Judd et al. (2003a) and, participants were interviewed either every six months or 12 months (depending on the point at follow up during which they were interviewed).

Joffe et al. (2004) interviewed 97 participants with bipolar I and 41 participants with bipolar II approximately every 3 months for a period of approximately 3 years. They found that as a group, individuals spent 40.9 % of time in depressive states (either subsyndromal or fully syndromal) and 6 % of time in varying states of mania (either subsyndromally hypomanic, hypomanic or manic). Participants were euthymic for 53.1 % of assessed months. Mood data was gathered by clinicians using an adapted version of the NIMH Life Chart. Mantere et al. (2008) followed 75 individuals, with bipolar I disorder, and 85 outpatients with bipolar II disorder at 6 and 18 month intervals. They found that as a group, participants spent 50.4 % of time in depressed states compared to 5.6 % of time in manic or hypomanic states. Participants were euthymic 39.6 % of assessed months.

Overall these studies describe the course of bipolar disorder to be recurrent, with euthymia being reported approximately half of the time. For individuals with both bipolar I and II, depressive symptoms appear significantly more frequently than manic or hypomanic symptoms.

Course of Bipolar Disorder: Adolescents

There is considerably inconsistency in result of longitudinal research on adolescent bipolar disorder. Overall this research suggests a lack of the distinct shifts in mood polarity seen in adults, and adolescents tend to present with states of mania/hypomania and depression that are characterized by irritable as opposed to elevated or grandiose moods that more commonly characterize adult bipolar disorder. Adolescents rarely return to euthymia between episodes (Geller and Luby, 1997), and the illness tends to run a chronic course, without long-term symptomatic recovery (Wozniak, Petty, & Carpenter, 2011). Most longitudinal research has focused on adult bipolar disorder and there are fewer longitudinal studies of adolescent bipolar.

Geller, Tillman, Craney, and Bolhoffner (2004) followed 86 adolescents with a diagnosis of bipolar I disorder over the course of four years and found participants were manic or hypomanic (or mixed mania/depression) 56% of weeks whereas participants were depressed 47.1% of weeks. By comparison, Birmaher et al. (2006) followed 263 adolescents with bipolar I and II for a period of two years and found that overall, participants were euthymic 38% of weeks followed, depressed 6.3% of weeks, and manic or hypomanic 3.9% of weeks. Participants were subsyndromally symptomatic 37% of weeks.

Birmaher et al. (2009) followed a group of 413 youths between the age of 7 and 17 with diagnoses of Bipolar I, II and NOS, for four years and found them to be symptomatic 60% of weeks, with depression and states of "mixed polarity" or mood symptoms in a combination of both elevated and depressed states, most commonly reported. These participants showed very high rates of clinical recovery and relapse, which indicate a course of illness that fluctuates often. They also found, however, that these subjects also had high rates of subsyndromal symptoms, even when they were considered "recovered" because they did not meet full symptom requirements for a diagnosis of a true mood episode. This suggests that although "recovery" as measured by clinical symptom reduction to sub-threshold levels does occur, these patients continue to suffer from functional impairment and distress related to sub-clinical mood states, for a significant portion of "recovered" time.

These results do not present a consistently described course of illness. Overall it is clear that despite differences in observed proportions of time spent in episode, the adolescent phenotype of bipolar disorder is more chronic, with less time spent euthymic than with subsyndromal or syndromal symptoms levels, and less episodic in nature than the adult presentation.

Polarity Switching

While fluctuating moods are the hallmark of bipolar disorder, few studies actually explicitly attempt to quantify the phenomenon of switching between elevated and depressed mood without a significant period of recovery. Studies that describe "rapid cycling" bipolar disorder, defined by at least 4 distinct episodes of mania, hypomania or depression, may not capture the typically adolescent phenotype in which mood states can fluctuate day-to-day, or week-to-week. Because a central goal of any treatment for bipolar disorder is to stabilize mood, switching between mood states may suggest differing prognosis or treatment.

Maj, Pirozzi, Magliano, and Bartoli (2002) found that in an adult population, polarity shifts predict poor outcomes and longer time spent in episode. Identifying patients that tend to switch mood states more than others could allow providers to intervene more effectively, possibly stabilizing the switching process, leading to less functional impairment.

Judd et al. (2003a) found that 19.8 % of individuals experienced one polarity switch per year in the 13 years they were followed, and that 24.4 % switched polarities more than 5 times per year.

In a comparison of adults with bipolar I and bipolar II, Judd et al. (2003c) found individuals with bipolar I experienced an average of 5.9 switches per year, and individuals with bipolar II experienced an average of 3.8 switches per year.

Switching data for adolescents are both inconsistent and limited. In a four-year analysis of 82 juveniles with bipolar I disorder Geller, et al. (2004) found an average of 1.1 polarity switches per year. By comparison, Birmaher et al. (2009) followed 413 adolescents with bipolar I and II disorder for two years and found that 38.7% of participants switched polarity more than 10 times per year and that 23.7% switched polarity more than 20 times per year. There was no significant difference in the number of switches between participants with bipolar II and I. Both adolescent studies used retrospective, clinician-gathered ratings of week-to-week symptom severity to determine weekly mood polarity shifts.

In sum, there remains little consistency in observed numbers of polarity shifts over time in populations of adolescents with bipolar disorder, with a range of one to more than 20 switches per year. These discrepancies may be attributed to different definitions of a polarity switch (i.e. only counting changes between fully symptomatic vs, subsyndromal symptom levels). The question of how often switches occur remains.

Longitudinal Methodology and Limitations

In their seminal paper, "Diagnostic Criteria For Use in Psychiatric Research," Feighner et al. (1972), suggest that in order to differentiate illnesses that share fully or partially overlapping diagnostic criteria, efforts must be made to understand an illness over time in order to determine change in presentation, which itself may be diagnostic. Researching mood disorders presents major methodological challenges, not least of which is ensuring participants accurately report their mood.

Recall bias and compliance. In diagnostic interviews and in most studies of longitudinal course of bipolar disorders, individuals are asked to retrospectively recall affective states, their duration and specific behaviors that did or did not occur during preceding months or years (e.g., Goldberg et al., 2004, Judd, et al. 2003, Judd et al., 2003a, Judd et al., 2003b, Mantere et al., 2008, & Rosa et al., 2008). Accurately recalling historical moods presents challenges to healthy individuals, and presents unique problems for individuals with mood disorders.

Memory of past events is significantly affected not only by the emotional state experienced during the historical episode being recalled, but by the emotional state being experienced by the individual during the interview. Burt, Zember, and Niederehe (1995) conducted a meta-analysis of research related to mood and memory and found recall of positive events by depressed individuals to be impaired, and recall of negative events to be enhanced. Depressed people remember fewer positive events, and more negative events. Similarly, Burt (1992) induced pleasant or unpleasant mood in participants and asked them to recall pleasant and unpleasant events over the course of the past several weeks. They found that participants induced to positive mood recalled more pleasant events, and participants induced to negative mood recalled more negative events.

Simon and Rutter (2007) compared retrospective recall of manic and hypomanic symptoms over three months with telephone interview assessments conducted between each 3month follow-up. They found sensitivity for recalling symptoms of mania to be 63% and sensitivity for recalling absence of manic symptoms to be 76%. For both diagnostic and treatment purposes, the rates of agreement between weekly assessment and three month recall of manic symptoms is only marginally acceptable.

Ben-Zeev, Young and Madsen (2009) compared a group of depressed individuals to a group of non-depressed controls. Both groups were given personal digital assistants (PDAs) that were programmed to ask participants to complete a depression rating every 1.5 hours for one week. At the end of the week, participants were asked to complete ratings of positive and negative affect for the previous week. When compared with the contemporaneously collected data, both groups overestimated both positive and negative affect, and depressed participants were less accurate than control participants when retrospectively recalling both mood states. This research suggests that individuals who fluctuate significantly in mood may likely experience difficulty accurately recalling moods states that occurred in the past. Given the fact that individuals with bipolar disorder tend to be symptomatic near 50% of the time (e.g., Judd, et al., 2003b) it is particularly difficult to feel confident that retrospectively recalled mood ratings are accurate.

Mood Monitoring

Beginning in 1915, Emil Kraepelin, widely acknowledged as having formalized the current conceptualization of bipolar disorder, used "life-charts" to document mood changes in individuals who met criteria for what he then called "manic-depressive insanity" (Horn, Scharer, Walser, Scherer-Klabunde, Biedermann, & Walden, 2002). Clinicians used different colors and shading patterns to indicate shifts in mood. Kraepelin's developed these life-charts in order to gain a better understanding of the course of bipolar disorder over time. Interestingly, Kraepelin recorded instances of mania with onset in adolescence using this very technique, and reported as much in his 1921, *Manic Depressive Insanity and Paranoia*. Unfortunately this objective evidence was not enough to challenge the current prevailing theories of mind, which did not acknowledge the existence of extremes of mood in adolescence.

In addition to gathering longitudinal data for research, most modern treatments for bipolar disorder use self-reported mood charts as an integral part of patient psychoeducation (Miklowitz, 2008). Kraepelin's life-charts are analogous to modern mood monitoring or charting, in which patients record daily moods on paper for treatment purposes. Mood charts serve to educate both the patient as well as treatment providers about the course of mood fluctuations for individual patients. Mood charts can serve to inform patients, family members, and treatment providers about potential mood changes, allowing for early pharmacological or psychotherapeutic intervention. Mood charts also allow researchers to use self-report data to further understand course of illness for individuals with bipolar disorder and to track changes based on specific treatments and interventions.

Although both clinicians and researchers have traditionally relied on "pen and paper" methods for mood monitoring, these methods may introduce another set of potential problems and opportunities for errors in mood data. In order to ensure an accurate representation of longitudinal change in moods, it is essential that patients do not make entries after they are requested or complete entries ahead of time. Entries completed after they are requested are subject to recall bias and entries completed in advance are clearly fabrications. Anecdotally, many clinicians report that clients often complete weekly mood charts just before sessions, often while sitting in the waiting room.

Stone, Shiffman, Schwartz, Borderick, and Hufford (2003) name these phenomena "backfilling," "forward-filling," and "hoarding". In an attempt to measure the frequency with which clients completed diary entries when assigned, Stone and colleagues equipped 40 individuals with paper diary notebooks to record levels of chronic pain over the course of 21 days. Unbeknownst to the participants, the diaries were equipped with light sensors connected to a device that recorded the date and time the diary was opened (the assumption was made that the diary would only be opened when entries were made). Participants were asked to make entries three times per day at predetermined times over the course of three weeks. When asked to rate their protocol compliance, participants claimed to be adherent to time requirements on 90% of diary entries. In reality, compliance was a mere 11%. Even more striking was the finding that on over 30% of the days in question clients never even opened their diaries, but claimed to be compliant for 90% of those days.

When the researchers gave participants electronic diaries, which prompted for entries at the same intervals requested of clients using paper diaries, compliance jumped to nearly 95%. This impressive difference in compliance rates indicates that even with a simple electronic reminder, electronic mood monitoring is not only feasible, but appears to increase protocol adherence.

Longitudinal Methods Using Real-Time Mood Monitoring

One of the earliest adopters of the experience sampling method of data collection was Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (Csikszentmihalyi, Larson & Prescott, 1977). Csikszentmihalyi argues that collecting information *in vivo* provides more accurate and "real" information than data gathered after the fact in the lab. Csikszentmihalyi et al. (1977) used then new personal pager or "beeper" technology to gather information on the daily behavior of a group of 25 adolescents. The pager was activated from a centrally located radio transmitter that could reach pagers within a radius of 50 miles. Each participant carried a personal pager that prompted him or her to record mood and the particular activity in which he or she was engaged.

Technological advances have made monitoring devices less cumbersome, less expensive and more ubiquitous. There is an established body of research showing that using new technologies such as computers and smartphones to effectively monitor behaviors is feasible. For example, studies have shown computer based, daily emotional and behavior monitoring can be employed when following adults with schizophrenia (Kimhy et al. 2005), children aged 7 to 12 years with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and their mothers (Whalen et al. 2006; Whalen, et al. 2006), smokers recording the relationship between smoking and mood (Delfino, Jamner, & Whalen 2001), and individuals with eating disorders tracking mood and binge/purge behavior (Smythe et al. 2007). All of these studies used personal digital assistants (PDAs), in which participants entered information multiple times over 24 hour periods.

Jahng, Wood, and Trull (2008) used PDAs to compare mood fluctuations in 46 individuals with borderline personality disorder (a hallmark of which is extreme affective instability) and 38 individuals with major depressive disorder who did not report mood instability. Participants were supplied with electronic diaries that prompted them for ratings on scales of positive and negative affect six times per day for four weeks. It was hypothesized that patients with borderline personality disorder would exhibit more fluctuations in negative affect relative to patients with major depressive disorder. Both participants with borderline personality disorder and major depressive disorder had very good compliance rates (.86 and .87 respectively). These researchers reported more instability in negative affect among the individuals with borderline personality disorder compared to individuals with major depressive disorder.

Of the studies that directly address mood monitoring for mood disorders, most only report pilot data and feasibility findings, however, these initial results appear quite promising. Scharer et al. (2002) adapted the NIMH prospective Life-Chart Form for use on a handheld computer and found that patients preferred the device to paper and pencil charting, felt a reduced stigma when using the device to record mood in public, reported gaining improved knowledge about their disorder, and enjoyed playing a more active role in their treatment.

Chinman, Alexander, Schell, Hassell, and Mintz (2004) compared in-clinic, computerassisted self report data provided by 45 individuals with bipolar disorder to mood data gathered by trained interviewers. They found very high correlations between self-report and interviewergathered data (r = 0.97) indicating that self-report data entered on a computer by bipolar individuals was similar to data gathered in an in-person interview by a trained mental health professional. Taken together, these data indicate that self-reported mood ratings provided by bipolar individuals via handheld or desktop computer appear to be as reliable as data gathered in person by trained clinicians, and that these individuals readily adapt to technology-assisted data collection.

Bauer et al. (2005) recruited 80 individuals to use the ChronoRecord software system, developed specifically for monitoring mood in affective disorders installed on their home computers to record mood, medication and sleep data. They found good adherence to the protocol (daily entries for 3 months). Out of the 114 days for which data entry was requested, participants only missed 6.1% of days, or the equivalent of 7.3 days. Thus, the method of data collection using computer software appeared to result in very good compliance.

Data provided by participants using the ChronoRecord software has allowed researchers to reconsider diagnostic rules for bipolar disorder. For example, Bauer et al. (2006) found that decreasing the number of days required for diagnosis of a hypomanic episode from the required four days to two days, doubled the proportion of days spent in hypomanic episode from 4% to 8%. This demonstrates the important role that modern self-report technologies can play in reifying and redefining conceptualizations of bipolar disorder.

Bauer, Rasgon, Sasse, Glenn, and Neuhaus (2005) compared self-reported mania and depression ratings provided by participants using the ChronoRecord software to cliniciangathered mood data and found no significant difference between severity ratings. These results suggest self-report data gathered via this method is equivalent to data gathered in-person.

Reilly-Harrington et al. (2010) compared ratings provided by individuals with bipolar I or II on the Interactive Computer Interview for Mania to in-person assessments of the same individuals. They found a strong correlation between the two methods, suggesting the computer system is a viable alternative to in person diagnostic interviews for mania. They also found that the computer system was more sensitive to manic symptoms than the in-person interviewer.

Faurholt-Jepsen et al. (2013) developed the MONARCA trial protocol (MONitoring, treAtment and pRediCtion of bipolAr disorder episodes), an app for Android-equipped smartphones that allows patients with bipolar disorder to provide ratings of mood, stress, social functioning etc. The system is currently undergoing a randomized, single-blind trial comparing outcomes in a group of bipolar patients using MONARCA and a group using smart phones without the app.

Data supplied by a group of adult bipolar patients used the TrueColours system to report their elevated and depressed moods once a week via text message (Bopp et al. 2010). These selfreport mood ratings reflected results similar to previously published data gathered using traditional retrospectively gathered mood ratings. Specifically, participants spent more time symptomatic than euthymic, and more time depressed than manic or hypomanic. There was also very good compliance with study protocol. Participants replied with weekly mood ratings 75% of the weeks they were requested, and proportion of time spent in mood states was consistent with previously published research (e.g, Judd et al. 2003; Kupka et al. 2007).

Current Study

For researchers, time and cost-effective methodology to facilitate the identification and long-term follow-up of young people with bipolar disorder, is essential to any effort to answer these and other questions about this damaging and costly illness. For clinicians, the same kind of diagnostic and monitoring system could provide invaluable data for the treatment of adolescent mood disorders. In this paper, we introduce, describe, test, and validate such a methodology: the TrueColours Self-Management System (TCSMS), a text-message and Internet-based mood monitoring system.

The current study uses two novel self-report methods that may address some of the limitations to more commonly used methods for collection of mood data for clinical and research purposes. 14 adolescents with bipolar disorder used a text-message based system for reporting weekly depressive and manic or hypomanic symptoms, and 3 adolescents with bipolar disorder

used an identical web-based version of the same system. A group of 22 healthy controls also provided weekly mood ratings. Participants were followed an average of 24 weeks.

In this study, we examine the feasibility of collecting course of illness data from adolescents with bipolar I and II disorder and a group of non-mood disordered controls, using the TrueColours Symptom Monitoring System (TCSMS). We examine the reliability of TCSMS by comparing the bipolar and control groups on average mood ratings, polarity switches, proportion of time spent with reported symptoms and variability in mood ratings over time.

This method of data collection may address issues of recall bias in retrospective studies, and may increase compliance with contemporaneous mood monitoring protocols, compared to traditional pencil-and-paper methods. Finally, this methodology may reduce reporting errors generated when patients or participants do not complete measures when requested, and engage in hoarding, backfilling and forward-filling.

The True Colours Self-Management System

The TCSMS system for obtaining weekly mood ratings was developed at the Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford, UK and has been used successfully there for several years (Simon et al., 2011; Miklowitz et al., 2012). The TCSMS allows individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorder to report their mood each week via text message, or a secure website. The TCSMS allows both patients and their care providers to access these weekly ratings, and to observe mood changes over time. System users can monitor overall symptom severity, and individual symptom changes over time. This allows users not only to observe overall changes in mood, but also to see how individual symptoms may fluctuate within individual patients.

Figure 1 TCSMS Single Subject Data For 11 Months



Bopp et al. (2010) conducted a study using the TCSMS. In this study a group of 62 adult patients with bipolar disorder (BPI = 47, BP II = 15), used cellular phone short messaging service (SMS), more commonly known as text-messaging, to provide weekly mood ratings. Patients received text message prompts once a week. The text messages were sent to a central computer where the ratings were processed and plotted on a graph. Patients were prompted to rate manic symptoms using the Altman Self-Rating Mania Scale (Altman, Hedecker, Peterson, & Davis, 1997) and depressive symptoms using the Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptoms-Self Report (Rush, Trivedi, Ibrahim, et al., 2003). Patients were followed over an average of 36 weeks (range = 1-92 weeks). Compliance (measured by whether or not patients responded to text message prompts each week) was good, at 75%. Overall, patients reported depressive symptoms 47% of the time. Participants reported manic symptoms 7% of the time, and reported mixed symptoms 8.8% of the time. Patients reported euthymia 36.5% of the time. These results were similar to those of other longitudinal studies of bipolar disorder that use traditional retrospective, clinician- gathered mood data (e.g., Judd et al., 2003; Kupka et al., 2007).

Specific aims

<u>Specific Aim #1:</u> To examine the feasibility of using the Oxford University True Colours Self-Management System (TCSMS), previously used to collect data from only adult bipolar patients, as a method of collecting mood data in real-time from a group of 18 adolescents with bipolar disorder and a group of 22 adolescents without any diagnosis of a mood disorder.

Hypothesis # 1. Adolescents with and without bipolar will respond to weekly prompts 75% of weeks as demonstrated in a previous trial of the SMS system with bipolar adults (Bopp et al., 2010).

<u>Specific Aim #2:</u> To demonstrate the validity of the TCSMS by determining the degree to which the SMS system distinguishes between adolescents with and without bipolar disorder.

Hypothesis #2. Adolescents diagnosed with bipolar disorder will report more polarity changes over time than non-bipolar controls.

Hypothesis #3. Bipolar adolescents will report higher average ratings of depressive and manic symptoms than non-bipolar controls.

Hypothesis #4. Bipolar adolescents will report more fluctuation in ratings of depressive and manic symptoms over time than non-bipolar controls.

<u>Specific Aim #3</u>: To compare proportion of time spent in mood states reported via TCSMS, with previously published longitudinal data using retrospectively gathered mood ratings.

Hypothesis #5. We hypothesize that consistent with previously published research, adolescents with bipolar disorder will report more weeks with depressive symptoms than with manic or hypomanic symptoms.

CHAPTER 2

METHODS

Participants

The full sample of 18 bipolar participants was recruited from two sites: The University of Colorado, Boulder (N=15), and McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA (N=3). Participants from University of Colorado, Boulder site were already enrolled in a treatment study with the Colorado Family Project, and participated in the SMS study as an additional component to that study. The parent project was the NIMH funded R01 grant, "Effectiveness of Family-Focused Treatment Plus Pharmacotherapy for Bipolar Disorder in Adolescents" (R01MH073871). This study examined the effectiveness of a 21-session Family Focused Treatment for adolescents with bipolar disorder and their families, compared to a 3-session control condition. Participants were in a variety of clinical states, were recruited from experimental and control treatment conditions within the study, and were pharmacologically managed by a study psychiatrist. All of the participants (N=14) at the Colorado site used the SMS texting system to report weekly moods.

Participants recruited at the McLean Hospital site were recruited from inpatient and partial hospitalization units, were informed of the project via flyers placed around the hospital grounds, or were informed of the study by Partners-affiliated providers at Massachusetts General Hospital. These participants were also actively engaged in treatment (cognitive behavioral therapy and psychopharmacological management), and were in a variety of clinical states at the time of enrollment. The three participants used the web-based version of the SMS system. Adolescents assessed for the experimental condition were eligible to participate if they: (1) met the DSM-IV criteria, based on the KSADS Mania and Depression rating scales for Bipolar I or II disorder and were willing and able to give written informed consent or assent to participate.

An additional 22 non-bipolar participants were recruited at the University of Colorado, Boulder to serve as a control group. Participants were recruited via an interdepartmental email listserve that is distributed to students, faculty and staff in the psychology department at the University. Participants recruited for the control condition were screened for mood disorders using The Kiddie SADS Depression Rating Scale (DRS; Kaufman et al 1997) and the K-SADS Mania Rating Scale (MRS; Axelson et al. 2003).

Participants were excluded from the control group if they met diagnostic criteria for any DSM-IV mood disorder (major depressive disorder, bipolar I, II, or NOS). Participants were not screened for other DSM-IV disorders. Participants and control participants were excluded from either condition if, based on parent report or medical records, they (1) had mental retardation (IQ < 70), autism, or organic CNS disorder, (2) were characterized by severe, unremitting psychosis that was neuroleptic-unresponsive and lasted more than 3 months. Participants were not screened for other DSM-IV Axis I or II disorders.

Participants could receive \$3.00 per week for completing the two rating scales. Depending on how long adolescents participated in the project, they could earn up to \$78 for sending weekly mood ratings over the course of the 6-month study. Colorado participants also received \$20 for the initial interview, and \$20 for each of two follow-up interviews. Participants could earn a total of \$138 for the duration of the study. Due to funding constraints, McLean subjects were reimbursed \$10 for the three assessment interviews, and could therefore earn a total of \$108 for full participation in the study. Control participants received \$20 for the initial interview, and were not assessed at 3 and 6 months, and therefore could earn a total of \$98 for full participation in the study.

Equipment and Procedures

The TrueColours SMS Texting System. The TCSMS for obtaining weekly mood ratings was developed at the Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Oxford, UK and has been used successfully there for several years. Pilot and feasibility data were published by Bopp, et al. (2010) and are discussed previously. The text-portion of the current study used that technology with modification to allow it to be used in the US. Specifically, because the SMS system database is housed in the UK, devising a method of transmitting data between the two countries was necessary.

Figure 2 The TrueColours Self-Management System International Computer-to-Text Interface



In the US, a desktop computer was programmed as an "SMS gateway" using the opensource Kannel software (The Kannel Group 2009), which runs on a Debian Linux operating system. An SMS gateway is a computer program that allows multiple pre-programmed textmessages to be sent from a phone connected to the computer. It also allows for the processing and storage of received messages. Companies that wish to send and receive bulk text messages, usually advertising companies, or local emergency information systems typically use these SMS gateways.

The computer on which the SMS gateway was installed, was connected to an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) that provided up to an hour of uninterrupted power to the system in the event of a power outage. Only certain cell phones are compatible with the Kannel SMS gateway. Attached to the computer running Kannel, was a Nokia 6230i cell phone. This study phone was associated with an unlimited texting plan.

TCSMS-text registration and weekly rating. To register a participant, a researcher sent a text message to the study phone, indicating the participant identification number, the participant's cell phone number, and the day and time of the week the participant wished to receive his or her prompt to complete mood ratings (e.g., ID1500 3035551234 mon 1400). Once the study phone received this message, it was transmitted via the SMS gateway to a static IP address associated with the TCSMS database in Oxford. Text data was transferred to the TCSMS database via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) with Transport Layer Security (TLS) to ensure data security.

Approximately 2 minutes after the registration text was sent, a mood-rating request was sent back from the TCSMS database in the UK via the Internet to the SMS gateway, to the study phone, which then sent this initial prompt to the participant's cell phone. This allowed the researcher to demonstrate to the participant, how to complete their weekly mood rating, and to answer any questions about the self-report measures. Following registration, the participant began receiving weekly prompts to complete ratings on the ASRM and QIDS-SR scales on the day and at the time the participant requested. Each week an aggregated dataset of mood ratings was sent from the Oxford database to the study coordinator.

Participants were supplied with wallet-sized versions of each rating scale. Adolescents responded to the text prompts first with the letter "A" indicating they were replying to the QIDS-SR, or with the letter "B" indicating they were replying to the ASRM, and then followed with the numerical rating for each question. For example, a participant completing the QIDS-SR would receive a text prompt, look at his or her rating card, and reply to the prompt, "A" with the
numerical rating for each of the 16 questions (e.g., A0330200001101111). If the text message contains errors (too few responses, scores out of range, etc.) the system sends a reply requesting that the patient re-submit his or her responses. If the adolescent did not reply when first prompted, a reminder message was sent the following day and again on the third day. All entries were date-stamped the day they are sent. Provisions were in place to supply phones to participants who did not have their own phones and were unable to afford text-message fees.

The TrueColours SMS Web System. At the McLean site, due to IRB concerns about data security, all subjects used the TCSMS web-based mood rating system instead of the text-message system. Subjects using the web-based system received a weekly email prompt at a predetermined day and time, in replace of the text-messaged prompt.

These participants were registered via the TrueColours website by a researcher. Once registered, participants received a "welcome" email with a link to the TrueColours website, where he or she could log in with a temporary password, change his or her password, and learn about the TrueColours system. On the day and at the time a participant requested, he or she would receive an email prompt with a link to the TrueColours website, where he or she would complete the QIDS-SR and ASRMS mood ratings.

Researchers were able to manage and register multiple participants from the TrueColours website. Although participants were not consistently involved in study-related treatment, those participants who were using the web-version of the TrueColours system could also view their mood ratings for past weeks and months.

Measures

Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptoms – Self Report. The QIDS-SR, is a 16-item measure of depression severity, which covers the nine diagnostic symptoms related to a DSM-IV-TR

major depressive episode The 16 questions are drawn from the larger, 30-item Inventory of Depressive symptoms (ISR) (Rush et al. 1996). These scales require participants to rate each symptom on a 0 - 3 scale over the past seven days. Depression scores on the QIDS-SR correspond to five levels of severity: none, 0-5, mild 6-10, moderate 11-15, severe: 16-20, very severe: 21-27. Scores below 6 indicate no depressive symptoms. The QIDS-SR has shown high levels of internal consistency between it and the ISR (c = .81) for rating depressive symptom severity (Trivedi et al 2004).

Altman Self-Rating Mania Scale. The ASRM is a 5-item measure of manic or hypomanic mood symptoms. Participants rate their symptoms over the previous week on 5 individual scales ranging from 0 to 4. Scores are aggregated for a final score range of 0-20. Any aggregate score above 5 points indicates the participant is symptomatic. Because the items do not measure the duration or functional impairment caused by symptoms, the ASRM does not distinguish between mania and hypomania. The ASRM has demonstrated high concurrent validity with the Clinician-Administered Rating Scale for Mania (CARS-M) (Altman et al. 1994) (r = .78), high test-retest reliability (r = .89) (Altman et al. 1997).

Kiddie Schedule for Affective Disorders Depression and Mania Rating Scales. The Kiddie SADS Depression Rating Scale (DRS; Kaufman et al 1997), the K-SADS Mania Rating Scale (MRS; Axelson et al 2003) are semistructured interviews drawn from the full K-SADS diagnostic interview, but enable one to track individual DSM-IV symptoms of mania and depression on Likert scales of severity and functional impairment. Published data from the larger R01 parent project at the Colorado site (Miklowitz, Axelson, Birmaher, et al., 2008) show good interrater reliability for the MRS (intraclass r, .97) and DRS (intraclass r, .89). Independent evaluators had at least an MA or psychiatric nursing degree.

Data Analyses

Initial analyses used t-tests to compare bipolar and control groups on demographic (gender, age, race) and mood variables (average QIDS and ASRMS scores, polarity switching). For demographic variables, where significant between-group differences were observed, these variables were included as covariates in all analyses. To confirm there was a linear relationship between dependent variables and time we conducted a curve estimation analysis. This analysis indicated that a linear curve best represented the change in data over the 13-week period (p < .01, $R^2= 2.4\%$). For the primary analyses, only individuals completing at least 60% of the weekly text message were included. This resulted in the exclusion of data from 4 bipolar subjects and no control subjects. Of note, logistic regression analysis indicated that for the present sample, those who complied versus those who did not comply at a 60% level, did not differ on demographic or mood variables (all p-values >.42). Given that all of the noncompliers were in the bipolar group, we also compared compliant bipolar participants to the noncompliant bipolar participants. Logistic regression analysis indicated that these groups also did not differ (all p-values >.24) on demographic or mood variables.

Analyses of covariance were used to evaluate the extent to which SMS texts could capture differential responses in bipolar versus non-bipolar adolescents. More specifically, two ANCOVAs were run with group (bipolar versus control) and time as independent variables, within-subject repeated measures QIDS and ASRMS as dependent variables, respectively, and age as a covariate. We hypothesized that while both bipolar and non-bipolar adolescents would report fluctuations in mood, bipolar adolescents would report greater severity of scores on the QIDS and ASRMS, and would report more variability in these ratings over time. As an additional comparison of mood variability, we calculated standard deviations for each subject's ASRMS and QIDS scores over the 3-month follow-up. Each subject then had a single standard deviation for each measure, to represent his or her mood variability over weeks in the study. We then used these standard deviations to conduct t-tests to compare within-subject mood variability between bipolar and control participants on both measures. In addition we hypothesized that bipolar participants would report more polarity switches (switches from symptomatic scores of 6 or above on one mood scale, to symptomatic scores of 6 or above on the other mood scale constituted a single polarity change) over the follow-up period than adolescents in the non-bipolar group.

To further test our prediction of significantly higher ratings over time of symptoms of depression and mania among participants in the bipolar group as compared to those in the control condition over the 13-week period, we used hierarchical linear models to measure effects of time, bipolar vs. control group, and the interaction between group and time on QIDS and ASRMS scores. The intercept and linear slope of time were allowed to vary across individuals. Analyses are based on data collected at 13 time points. We treated ASRM and QIDS scores as continuous variables to examine degree of change over time. For the first level of the multilevel model, we estimated the mean ASRM (or QIDS) score: ASRM_{ti} = $\beta_{0i} + \varepsilon_{ii}$, where ASRM_{ti} is a participant's mania score at time t. For the second level, we created a dichotomous variable for group (bipolar vs. control), α Group. Next, we included variables for the interactions between group and week: $\beta_{0i} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_i$ Group + α_i Week + α_i Group* α_i Week + $\varepsilon_{i..}$

Following between-group comparisons, we next conducted within-group (i.e., within bipolar participants) analyses to characterize the mood fluctuations. Here, we were interested in assessing three characteristics of this group: 1) amount of time spent in each episode, 2) the

predictive importance of various mood states on mood fluctuations, and 3) the comparison of retrospective, clinician-based mood ratings versus in-moment (i.e., text) mood self-ratings. For all of these analyses we conducted t-tests and ANOVAs. With regard to the first two points, we hypothesized that, consistent with previous studies, adolescents with bipolar disorder would report more weeks with depressive symptoms than with manic or hypomanic symptoms or in periods of euthymia (e.g., Birmaher, Axelson, Goldstein, Strober, Gill, et al. 2009; Geller, Tillman, Craney and Bolhoffner, 2004). For each participant, we calculated the mean percentage of time that QIDS and ASRM scores indicated euthymia (no symptoms of depression *or* mania), depression, mania or mixed states, defined as reporting symptomatic scores on both scales simultaneously, using total weeks in which ratings were supplied as the denominator. Scores of 6 or greater on both scales indicate clinically significant symptoms.

Exploratory Models. Following from our results with adults, exploratory multilevel models were calculated using gender or bipolar I/II status as predictors of symptom trajectories. These analyses can generate hypotheses for future research on factors that moderate the course of adolescent bipolar disorder under experimental treatment conditions. We used multilevel modeling (PROC MIXED function in SAS; Ger and Everitt 2001) to examine the relations between bipolar subtype and gender to changes in ASRM and QIDS scores. For both the ASRM and QIDS variables, separate multilevel models were estimated. We treated ASRM and QIDS scores as continuous variables to examine degree of change over time. For the first level of the multilevel model, we estimated the mean ASRM (or QIDS) score: $ASRM_{ti} = \beta_{0i} + \epsilon_{ii}$, where ASRM_{ti} is a participant's mania score at time t. For the second level, we created dichotomous variables for bipolar subtype (type I vs type II), α Diag, and gender, α Gender. Next, we included variables for the interactions between subtype and day, gender and day, and subtype and gender:

 $\beta_{0i} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_i \text{Diag} + \alpha_i \text{Gender} + \alpha_i \text{Week} + \alpha_i \text{Diag}^* \alpha_i \text{Week} + \alpha_i \text{Week}^* \alpha_i \text{Gender} + \alpha_i \text{Diag}^* \alpha_i \text{Gender} + \alpha_i \text{Diag}^* \alpha_i \text{Gender} + \alpha_i \text{Conder} + \alpha_i \text{Cond$

In summary, we hypothesized that 1) bipolar adolescents would report higher average rates of depression and mania using the TCSMS over the course of the 13-week follow-up than non-mood-disordered controls; 2) bipolar adolescents would report more change (mood fluctuation) on both measures over the 13 weeks than the control group; 3) bipolar participants would report more switches between mood polarity than healthy controls; 4) within the bipolar group, participants would report the majority of weeks with depressive symptoms compared to weeks with mania/hypomania and without symptoms altogether; 5) within the bipolar group, there would be more variability (fluctuation) in weekly TCSMS mood ratings when compared to weekly mood ratings gathered by clinicians at the 13 week follow-up.

CHAPTER 3

RESULTS

Missing Data

While the protocol asks participants to submit mood ratings for 6 months, time constraints dictated that the first 3 months of data were used for these analyses. While not included in these results, data collection did continue for these subjects, and will be included in future publications.

After receiving several weeks of identical mood reports, two bipolar subjects were contacted and asked if they had been submitting identical ratings each week, without actually rating individual items on the QIDS and ASRMS. Both subjects were given the option of restarting the protocol. One subject did not respond, and this subject's data were not used in any analyses. One subject responded and agreed to restart the protocol. The data up until this point for this subject were not included in the final analyses.

Sample Characteristics

Table 1 presents a comparison of participant demographic and clinical characteristics between bipolar and control groups. A total of 40 subjects (22 control subjects, 18 bipolar subjects) participated in the study. Bipolar participants were significantly older than control subjects (Control: M=15 years; SD=1.33, range=13-18 years; Bipolar: M=17.3 years, SD=1.56, range=15-21 years; t(38) = -4.85, p<.01). Because groups differ significantly in age, age is included as a covariate in all analyses. Control and bipolar participants did not significantly differ on gender, race, or ethnicity.

Table 1.

	Comparison o	f Demographic	Variables	Across	Groups
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<u>Variable</u>	<u>Controls M(SD)</u>	<u>Bipolar M(SD)</u>	<u>t(38)</u>	<u>p</u>	<u>Effect</u> Size
Age	15.0 (1.33)	17.3 (1.56)	- 4.89	<.01	d = 1.6
Variable	<u>Controls N (%)</u>	<u>Bipolar N (%)</u>	$X^2(df)$	p	<u>Effect</u> Size
Gender					
Male	12 (54%)	7 (39%)			
Female	10 (45%)	11 (61%)	1.8(1)	.18	Ф=.21
Race					
Black/African American	0	1 (6%)			
Asian	4(18%)	0			
Caucasian	16(73%)	17(94%)			
Nat. Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0			
Nat. American/Alaskan Nat.	2(9%)	0			
Other	0	0	6.7(4)	.15	$\Phi=.41$
Ethnicity					
Hispanic	1 (5%)	3 (17%)			
Non-Hispanic	21 (95%)	15 (83%)	1.61(1)	.2	Ф=.20

Specific Aim #1: Testing the feasibility of using the Oxford University True Colours Self-Management System with adolescents

Hypothesis 1: Adolescents with and without bipolar will respond to weekly prompts in 75% of weeks as demonstrated in a previous trial of the SMS system with adults. On average, all participants complied with the TCSMS protocol on 84% of weeks during the 13-week follow-up. Bipolar and control subjects differed significantly on protocol adherence (Control compliance: M=94%, SD=.08; Bipolar compliance: M=76%, SD=.21; t(38)=3.65, p<.01). There were four bipolar subjects who complied with the weekly TCSMS protocol less than 60% of weeks. These subjects were considered non-compliers and were not included in primary analyses.

Tests of differences in demographic and clinical characteristics between compliers and non-compliers were examined using logistic regression. There were no significant differences in baseline scores on QIDS and ASRMS or demographic variables (age, race, ethnicity) between compliers and non-compliers. Moreover, even though all of the noncompliers were in the bipolar group, there was no significant difference between group (bipolar versus controls) on the likelihood of completing the study or not (p=.99).

To determine if compliance rates may have differed depending on the TCSMS text or web option, we compared the McLean group who used the web option, and the Colorado group who used the text option, on compliance, and found no significant differences (Mclean mean compliance = 87% (SD=.22), Colorado mean compliance = 73% (.22); t(16) = 1.02, p=.32). **Specific Aim #2:** Validity of the TCSMS – Bipolar vs. Healthy Controls

Hypothesis 2: Bipolar participants will report more polarity changes over time than non-bipolar controls. Bipolar participants did not report more polarity changes (switches from symptomatic scores on one mood rating, to symptomatic scores on another constituted a single polarity change) over the course of the 13-week follow-up than did control participants, (t(38)=-.99, p=.33).

Hypothesis 3: Bipolar adolescents will report higher average ratings of depressive

and manic symptoms than non-bipolar controls. On average, bipolar participants reported

higher average depressive symptoms as reported on the QIDS than non-bipolar controls (Control

QIDS: *M*=2.48, *SD*=2.1, range=0-8.89; Bipolar QIDS: *M*=7.2 *SD*=5.46, range=.38-22.78;

t(38)=-3.73, p<.01). Bipolar and non-bipolar controls did not differ on average mania scores as

reported via the ASRSMS (t(38)=-1.24 p=.22). These results are summarized below in Table 2.

Table 2.						
Comparison of Mean	Mood Ratings	Between	Groups	Over 1	!3	Weeks

Variable	Controls M(SD)	Bipolar M(SD)	F(1,38)	d	Р
QIDS*	2.47(2.1)	7.18(5.46)	7.48	1.25	.001
ASRMS**	1.61(1.6)	2.38(2.3)	2.39	.45	.22
Polarity Switches***	.23(.53)	.50(1.15)	4.29	.32	.33

* QIDS-SR scores correspond to five levels of depression severity: none, 0-5, mild 6-10, moderate 11-15, severe: 16-20, very severe: 21-27. Scores below 6 on both scales indicate no clinically significant symptoms. ** ASRMS scores above 5 points indicate the participant is symptomatic, but the scale does not differentiate between mania and hypomania. *** switches from symptomatic scores on one mood rating, to symptomatic scores on another constituted a single polarity change (e.g. a participant reports a score above 5 on the QIDS one week, and the following week, reports a score above 5 on the ASRMS).

For QIDS scores, adolescents in the bipolar group reported more weeks with any level of depression, and more weeks with mild, moderate or severe depression, than healthy controls. There were no differences in proportion of time spent with very severe depression between groups. Bipolar participants did not report more weeks with symptoms of mania or hypomania than healthy controls, but bipolar participants did report more weeks with mixed symptoms than healthy controls. These results are summarized below in table 3.

Table 3.

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Variable	Control % (SD)	Bipolar %(SD)	t(34)	р		
Depression (any)	10 (23)	49 (39)	-3.81	.001		
Mild	8 (17)	29 (32)	-2.56	.02		
Moderate	2 (7)	10 (14)	-2.44	.02		
Severe	0 (0)	2 (4)	-2.36	.02		
Very Severe	0 (0)	7 (21)	-1.65	.11		
No depressive symptoms	87 (23)	51 (39)	3.81	.001		
Hypo/Mania	6 (14)	13 (25)	99	.33		
No manic symptoms	93 (14)	87 (25)				
Both Manic and Depressive Symptoms	1 (5)	9 (13)	2.37	.02		
No Manic or Depressive Symptoms	22 (30)	19 (37)	32	.75		

Comparison of Proportion of Weeks Spent With Mood Symptoms Between Groups

Note: Values are presented in percentages of weeks reported

Hypothesis 4. Bipolar adolescents will report more fluctuation in ratings of depressive and

manic symptoms over time than non-bipolar controls. For QIDS scores, there was a

significant main effect of group (F(1,408)=50.58, p<.001, $\eta_p^2=.11$) and week

(F(1,408)=14.39, p<.001, $\eta_p^2=.03$) in an ANCOVA. For these analyses group (bipolar versus control) and time were independent variables, within-subject repeated measures QIDS and ASRMS were dependent variables, respectively, and age was included as a covariate. Moreover, the group by time interaction was significant, such that bipolar participants reported greater change (i.e., depressive fluctuation) over weeks in the study in depressive symptoms as reported on the QIDS than non-bipolar controls (F(1,408)=6.40, p=.012, $\eta_p^2=.015$). However, bipolar and non-bipolar participants did not differ in average severity of mania scores by group,

 $(F(1,409)=.02, p=.89, \eta_p^2=.00)$, or in change (i.e., manic fluctuation) in mania scores over weeks in the study (the interaction of weeks and mania score) $(F(1,409)=.01, p=.94, \eta_p^2=.00)$.

T-test comparisons using each subject's standard deviation on the QIDS as a measure of variability revealed significant differences between bipolar and control participants (Control

QIDS SD: M=1.36, SD=.82, range= 0 – 3.44 Bipolar QIDS SD: M=2.83 SD=2.04, range= .96-8.42; t(34)=-3.02, p<.005; d = 1.02). T-test comparisons using each subject's standard deviation on the ASRMS as a measure of variability did not yield significant differences between bipolar and control participants (Control ASRMS SD: M=1.24, SD=.82, range= 0 – 3; Bipolar ASRM SD: M=1.52 SD=1.31, range= 0-5.68; t(34)=-.79, p = .81; d = .26).¹ Average weekly mood ratings for bipolar and control participants over the course of the 13 week follow-up are illustrated in Figure 3.





Specific Aim #3: Proportion of time spent in mood states

Hypothesis 5: Adolescents with bipolar disorder will report more weeks with

depressive symptoms than with manic or hypomanic symptoms or euthymia. Bipolar

¹ When analyses include the 4 bipolar participants who were considered non-compliers, the differences in variability on QIDS remained significant, however the ASRMS differences became significant where they were not with the smaller sample (Control ASRMS SD: M=1.24, SD=.82, range= 0 – 3; Bipolar ASRMS SD: M=1.9 SD=1.69, range= 0 – 5.68; t(34)=-1.63, p < .05; d = .52).

adolescents reported an average of 49% of days of depressive symptoms and 51% of days without any depressive symptoms (F(1,13)=.004, p=.95, $\eta_p^2=.00$). On average, on the ASRMS, bipolar adolescents reported significantly more days without manic or hypomanic symptoms, than days with these symptoms (mean percentage of days with no symptoms: 87% (SD=.19), mean percentage of days with manic or hypomanic symptoms (13% (SD=.19); (F(1,13=31.17, p<.01, $\eta_p^2=.71$). Bipolar adolescents reported an average of 9% of days with symptomatic scores on both QIDS and ASRMS ratings². These differences are illustrated in Figure 4.





Tests of within subject effects showed significant differences between symptom severity levels (F(4,10) = .099, p < .001, $\eta_p^2 = .99$) reported on the QIDS. Within the QIDS scores, the majority of days with reported depressive symptoms, 29%, were spent with mild depression. The

 $^{^{2}}$ Percentages to not add up to 100% due to the fact that some participants only responded to one, but not both measures on some weeks.

next most frequently reported states of depression were moderate (10%), very severe (7%), and severe (2%) respectively. These differences are shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5. Depression Severity Over Time Within Bipolar Participants

Mood-State Severity as a Predictor of Polarity Switching.

Pearson product moment correlations were conducted to determine whether average mood state severity was correlated with the number of polarity switches among bipolar participants. This allowed us to determine if greater mood symptom severity is correlated with greater symptomatic instability. There was a strong, positive correlation between the two variables, such that higher ASRMS scores during the 13-week follow-up were associated with higher frequency of of polarity switches in the bipolar group (r = .64, n = 14, p < .05). Depression ratings as reported on the QIDS were not associated with number of polarity switches (r = .12, n = 14, p = .71).

Multilevel models of within-subject course predictors.

Some researchers suggest that when data include a nested structure and scores over time, HLM is most appropriate (e.g., Willet & Sayer, 1984). Hierarchical linear models indicated no significant interaction between diagnosis (bipolar vs control) and time on QIDS scores (F(1,35) = 3.67, p =.06) or ASRMS scores (F(1,38) = .061, p =.81).

Hierarchical linear models indicated no significant differences between the bipolar I and II subgroups on average QIDS or ASRMS scores (ASRMS, F(1,17) = 2.73, p =.12; QIDS: (F(1,15) = .31, p = .59) or changes in week-to-week mood scores over time (the interaction of subtype and week) (ASRMS: F(1,14) = .63, p =.44; QIDS: (F(1,14) = .165, p = .69).

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

The study examined the feasibility of using a novel method of self-report, the TrueColours Self-Management System, to collect weekly mood ratings from a group of adolescents diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and a group of non-mood-disordered adolescents. We aimed to first determine if adolescents would use the TCSMS to provide weekly mood ratings, and adherence ratings indicate the TCSMS was generally used as requested. In addition, our analyses examined differences on average weekly mood symptom severity, and changes over 13 weeks in these mood ratings between the bipolar and control groups in order to determine the validity of the TCSMS in differentiating bipolar and healthy adolescents. Bipolar and control participants differed on average weekly depression ratings, as well as on changes in depression ratings over weeks, but there were no differences on mania ratings. Within the bipolar group, analyses examined proportions of time spent with different mood symptoms in order to determine if the TCSMS produced results similar to those found in other studies (i.e. more time spent in depressive mood states than with manic symptoms or without any mood symptoms). Bipolar adolescents spent the majority of weeks with depressive symptoms, and the fewest number of weeks without any mood symptoms at all.

Specific Aim #1: Feasibility of the TCSMS

Based on rates protocol compliance, our findings suggest that using TCSMS with adolescent bipolar patients is feasible. While compliance in both bipolar and control groups was consistent with our hypothesized expectations, there was a significant difference in rates of compliance between bipolar and control subjects. Control subjects were significantly more compliant with the TCSMS protocol than bipolar subjects. This is not an unexpected result, given the challenges of protocol adherence in bipolar populations (Colom, Vieta, Martinez-Aran, Reinares, Benabarre, & Gasto, 2000, Keck, et al., 1996).

There are few studies that specifically examine treatment compliance in adolescent bipolar patients, and these studies describe medication compliance. Coletti, Leigh, Gallelli, and Kafantaris (2005) found that in a group of 37 adolescents with bipolar disorder, only 34% were fully compliant with prescribed medication protocols over a one-month period. Drotar, et al. (2007) examined adherence to a lithium protocol in a group of over the course of an average of 11 weeks. They found adherence rates of 66% based on lithium serum levels. It is notable that in the Colletti et al (2005) study, low reported adherence was in direct contrast to parent's perceptions of their child's adherence.

While these studies of medication compliance are not entirely analogous to psychotherapeutic interventions broadly, or mood-monitoring specifically, it is notable that rates of compliance with TCSMS among the bipolar participants (76% of weeks on average) are higher than medication compliance over similar time periods. It is also important to note that to our knowledge, TCSMS participants did not use mood ratings in treatment, and no participants actively engaged with study staff over the course of the 13-week follow-up. It may be argued that these higher rates of compliance may be driven by the fact that participants were only paid when they provided mood ratings. Future research with the TCSMS may produce more generalizable compliance data if subjects are not paid when using TCSMS for clinical purposes.

Given the well-documented positive effects of therapist-patient rapport (Beck, Rush, Shaw, & Emery, 1979; Leach, 2005; Joe, Simpson, Dansereau, & Rowan-Salz, 2001; Kaplan, Greenfield, & Ware, 1989) on treatment compliance and other factors associated with positive outcomes, it is reasonable to expect that compliance rates for the TCSMS would likely improve even more, if patients were using the system to monitor their mood as part of an active and ongoing treatment, with a competent clinician.

Three subjects who used the web-based version of TCSMS provided feedback at the 3month follow-up (subjects who used the texting version of TCSMS were sent an online survey and none replied). All subjects replied they found the system easy to use and that it was helpful to track their moods each week. Asked if they would use the system if it were not part of a study, two stated they would. Another participant stated he would likely not, as he rarely uses email. One participant, an 18 year old female stated, "It was really helpful, I don't look back at my daily journal unless I am in therapy, so this gave me the chance to see [how my mood changes each week]... Daily on paper is a little more difficult. Weekly [online tracking] is better." Overall these compliance data and usability feedback suggest that TCSMS is a system that adolescents diagnosed with bipolar disorder are willing to use.

The participant who reported he rarely uses email is likely part of a larger trend of young people decreasing reliance on the use of email to communicate. According to the digital

marketing research firm ComScore, the use of email by adolescents aged 12 to 17 decreased by 30% between 2010 and 2011 (ComScore, 2012).

Specific Aim #2: Validity of the TCSMS – Bipolar vs. Healthy Controls

Based on our findings, it is early to conclude that the TCSMS effectively differentiates the short-term course of mood variability in bipolar and non-bipolar adolescents. While bipolar adolescents did report significantly higher rates of depression, and greater changes in depression over time, the same did not hold for ratings of mania and hypomania. Bipolar adolescents also did not report more polarity switches over time than non-bipolar controls.

In addition to examining the severity of manic and depressive symptoms between bipolar and non-bipolar controls, we explored whether or not certain mood states were predictive of other mood states, or polarity switches within the bipolar group. We found that bipolar adolescents with higher reported manic symptoms reported more polarity switches between manic and depressed states. One potential benefit of the TCSMS system is that it may ultimately be useful as a predictive device. In this case, with a small sample and limited follow-up time, we were able to determine that for this group, there is an increased risk for polarity switching among adolescents who report higher mania scores at baseline. By its very nature, mania involves increased risky behavior, poor judgment and disruptions in functioning, and the addition of polarity switching confers additional risks and poor outcomes (Maj, et al. 2002). Thus, the TCSMS could be used as a low-cost, method of continuously monitoring adolescents for potentially problematic mood changes.

Specific Aim #3: Proportion of time spent in mood states

When reporting depressive symptoms on the QIDS, bipolar adolescents reported approximately half of the 13 weeks of follow-up with any level of depression, and half of the

weeks without depressive symptoms. When reporting manic or hypomanic symptoms on the ASRMS, participants reported no symptoms during the vast majority of weeks. When reporting both QIDS and ASRMS scores, participants reported 9 percent of weeks with both elevated and depressed symptoms, and 19% of weeks without symptoms of either mania or hypomania, or depression.

While longitudinal research with adolescent bipolar populations has not provided particularly consistent results when describing duration of time spent in various mood states, these results are similar to previously published findings (e.g., Birmaher et al. 2009; Birmaher et al., 2006; Geller, Tillman, Craney and Bolhoffner, 2004), which suggests the TCSMS may be a valid measure of time spent in episode for bipolar adolescents. Results of these studies compared with our results, are summarized below in Table 4.

Table 4.

(Current Study)

Authors	<u>N</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>BP</u> Subtype	<u>Follow-up</u>	<u>% Depressed</u>	<u>% Manic</u>	<u>% Mixed</u>	<u>% Euthymic</u>
Geller, Tillman, Craney and Bolhoffner (2004)	86	10.8±2.7	Ι	4 years	47.1	56		
Birmaher, Axleson, Strober, Gill, Valeria, et al. (2006)*	263	13	I, II	2 years	6.3	3.9		38
Birmaher, Axelson, Goldstein, Strober, Gill et al. (2009)	413	7-17	I, II, NOS	4 years	6.3** 9.4	3.9 15.7	2.9 12.8	39.7
Bopp, et al.	18	17	I, II		10	10	0	10

Comparison of Results of Longitudinal Studies of Adolescents with Bipolar Disorder

*Subjects were "subsyndromally symptomatic 37% of weeks. ** Upper value represents syndromal symptoms, lower value represents subsyndromal symptoms

13 weeks

49

13

Within the bipolar group, we found that the most common depressive state was mild, or subsyndromal. Bipolar adolescents reported mild depression on 29% of reported weeks, which was significantly higher than average rates of mild depression among the non-bipolar control

condition. According to these results, bipolar adolescents experience more periods of low-grade depression than their non mood-disordered compatriots.

Although bipolar disorder is formally conceptualized as a disorder of episodes, this and prior research suggest a significant amount of time is spent between episodes with symptoms that do not meet duration or severity requirements for the diagnosis of major depressive disorder. While this level of depression does not warrant clinical diagnosis, subsyndromal depression can be debilitating. Periods of subthreshold symptomatology are significantly debilitating but are often untreated. Altshuler et al. (2006) found that subsyndromal depression is significantly correlated with impairment at work, at home, and in relationships with family members and friends. Tohen, Bowden, Calabrese, Lin, Forrester, Sachs, et al., (2006) found that subsyndromal depression predicts the likelihood of major depressive relapse.

The most common mood state for bipolar in adults, appears to be subsyndromal depression. For example, Judd et al. (2003) found that 135 bipolar individuals experienced subsyndromal depression at a frequency three times that of syndromal depression. Individuals are more than twice as likely to develop subsyndromal depressive symptoms than hypomanic symptoms between acute mood episodes (Keller et al., 1992). Vieta, Sanchez Moreno, Lahuerta, and Zaragoza (2008) found that bipolar individuals, who are considered clinically to be in remission, actually have significantly higher scores on the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale than non-bipolar control participants.

Findings for bipolar adolescents are similar. Birmaher et al. (2009) found that bipolar youth were subsyndromally symptomatic 41% of recorded weeks. Birmaher et al. (2006) found that bipolar adolescents were subsyndromally symptomatic 37.9% of recorded weeks. We found

that adolescents reported mild and moderate levels of depressive symptoms an average of 40% of weeks (compared with an average of 9% of weeks with severe and very severe depression).

In addition to findings related to proportions of time spent in different mood states, we explored whether or not these proportions were predictive of any other mood states. We found a positive correlation between time spent with symptoms of mania or hypomania, and time spent with symptoms of both mania and depression simultaneously. The combination of agitation and hopelessness that defines mixed states is profoundly impairing and distressing, but more troubling, confers greater risk for suicide attempts (Goldstein et al. 2012; Algorta, et al. 2011, Balázs, Benazzi, Rihmer, Rihmer, Akiskal, & Akiskal, 2006). Any method of effectively monitoring patients for this risk should be explored.

Limitations

A potentially serious limitation is the fact that the ASRMS has not been validated for use with adolescents. Additionally mania fundamentally impairs judgment, and adolescents may be poor reporters of their psychiatric symptoms when compared to parents and treatment providers (Achenbach, McConaughy, & Howell, 1987). There is therefore some possibility that TCSMS cannot reliably detect differences between bipolar and non-bipolar adolescents.

Collecting ratings each week during treatment sessions could address the issue of accuracy in self-reported symptoms. In fact it was initially planned to collect observer ratings using the Adolescent Longitudinal Interval Follow-up Evaluation (A-LIFE), derived from the well-validated adult LIFE interview (Keller et al., 1987), a structured interview that provides a cross-sectional and longitudinal picture of an adolescent's mood symptoms. Unfortunately, there were errors in gathering these data. Specifically, we expected A-LIFE date ranges and TCSMS date ranges to overlap, but the majority of A-LIFE data was collected before most participants

began reporting weekly mood via TCSMS, which resulted in too few overlapping scores on each rating. Therefore these analyses were not completed, and remain a goal of future research.

There may be other explanations for the lack of differentiation in mania symptoms between groups. Due to time constraints, only 3 months of data were analyzed for this study, as opposed to the intended 6. It may be the case that lack of differentiation between bipolar and control participants, particularly with regard to manic symptoms may result from lack of adequate follow-up duration. In other words, bipolar subjects simply may not have had enough time to experience manic or hypomanic symptoms. Stringaris et al. (2010) followed 93 adolescents with bipolar disorder for an average of two years, and found that 62% of these subjects experienced at least one manic, hypomanic, or mixed episode during the follow-up period. Birmaher and colleagues (2006) found bipolar adolescents spent only 3.9% of weeks with manic or hypomanic symptoms over a similar time period. Given the relatively small percentage of time adolescents spend with manic or hypomanic symptoms, it may be the case that a larger sample, followed for a full 6 months, would reveal more manic and hypomanic symptoms in the bipolar group.

There were also significant challenges in recruiting bipolar adolescents from both the Colorado and McLean sites, which resulted in a smaller-than expected N in the bipolar group, and subsequently reduced statistical power. Initially we intended to recruit 22 subjects in both groups, but ultimately recruited 18 bipolar subjects, and of those, four were noncompliant with the protocol, resulting in an N of 14 for primary analyses. The resulting reduction in power may have decreased our ability to find statistical differences.

Power analysis conducted with the pwr package in R (R Development Core Team, 2009) indicated that, the full sample size, including the 4 bipolar non-compliers, provided low power,

at 35% to detect a medium effect size (d= .5; Cohen, 1992) for the 1 degree of freedom contrasts with a two-tailed alpha of .05 for comparisons on both QIDS and ASRMS ratings. Excluding the four noncompliers reduced power to 31%. For the ANOVAs, power with the full sample of 18 participants was 67% to detect a medium effect size (d=.5), and 62% when the four noncompliers were excluded. Recruitment for the TCSMS project is ongoing, and ultimately we plan to recruit 22 bipolar subjects and analyze data for a full 6 months.

In addition, the recruited samples may have been more stable and less symptomatic than a sample more representative of average bipolar adolescents. Both control and bipolar samples were samples of convenience. The control group was recruited via an email listserve at the University of Colorado at Boulder. While this listserve is often used to recruit control and research samples for research at the University, it is limited in several ways. First, the majority of subjects (n=37) were recruited in Boulder, Colorado, a fairly racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically homogenous area. According to the Boulder Economic Council's 2013 Market Profile, 40% of residents hold an advanced degree, and 93% of the population identifies as white. In comparison, national averages are 27% and 78% respectively (US Census Bureau, 2012). A recent longitudinal analysis of adults and adolescents in Denver, Colorado showed a correlation between lower income, poverty, and symptoms of depression and anxiety (Santiago, Wadsworth, and Stump, 2011). It is therefore possible that including a sample that is more representative of national averages of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status, may have resulted in more separation between bipolar and control participants, and an increase in both reported mood symptoms, as well as mood variability in the control group.

Another limitation related to sampling is that a significant number of the bipolar group were recruited from the larger University of Colorado project, "Effectiveness of Family-Focused Treatment Plus Pharmacotherapy for Bipolar Disorder in Adolescents." This study examined the effectiveness of a 21-session Family Focused Treatment for adolescents with bipolar disorder. This presents a potential selection bias, as participants' positive or negative feelings about the larger study may have influenced their decision to participate in TCSMS. For every subject enrolled in the TCSMS study, one potential participant either declined to participate, or did not return recruitment phone calls. Parents and adolescents who were contacted gave a number of reasons for declining participation. Several parents had cut off or limited their child's ability to send and receive text messages due to behavioral problems. A number of adolescents were hospitalized or in boarding schools and did not have access to their cell phones. Another group of adolescents were simply "not interested." One adolescent, perhaps echoing the sentiment of others, stated that she was "just tired of doing research." After participating in 21 months of treatment, plus additional months of follow-up, refusers may have been suffering from "research fatigue" (Clark, 2012). For this reason, bipolar subjects who agreed to participate may have been less symptomatic, more stable, have had a more positive experience in the larger study, and have been more compliant than a sample that had no previous experience with The Colorado Family Project.

In addition, all subjects recruited for this study were either actively receiving treatment or had undergone comprehensive treatment for their illness. A sample recruited independently of any other research project may have reported more significant mood symptoms, and greater variability in mood fluctuation.

Implications

We expect that the continued TCSMS trial with this adolescent population will reveal differences between bipolar and control participants. If this is indeed the case, there are positive

implications for using this technology both clinically and in research as a method for contemporaneous mood monitoring. Researchers are supplied with data as soon as they are entered making frequent follow-up assessments with participants less necessary. Text-message responses are immediately stored on computers, reducing data-entry burden, reducing lost paper data and reducing data-entry errors. The relatively low cost and ubiquity of cell phones and smartphones make this data collection method potentially more feasible and cost-effective than traditional methods.

A significant portion of the adolescent population owns cell phones, and uses textmessaging regularly. According to a recent Nielsen Company report (Nielsen Company, 2010), a typical adolescent aged 13 to 17 sends an average of 3,339 text messages per month. There is also no proprietary software to be installed or maintained on participants' cell phones. While there were costs associated with system development, setup, and maintenance, once the system was up and running, data was automatically collected and organized for each patient and costs were limited to Internet fees and an unlimited texting plan. Participants who use the web-based version of the TCS must have access to the Internet, which could exclude some individuals. According to the 2010 US Census, over 70% of US households have Internet access. According to the International Telecommunications Union, in 2012, 81% of Americans had Internet access either in or outside of the home.

The increasing ubiquity of smart phones does not make TCSMS obsolete, in fact, the web-based TCSMS system is optimized for cell phone use, and allows patients to see their weekly mood fluctuations charted on a graph, which may improve adherence due to feedback about their input, and which may provide useful psychoeducational material in between sessions. Because there is no software or app to be installed, patients do not run the risk of revealing that they are participating in research of psychotherapy when they inevitably share their phones with others.

Perhaps the most striking finding in this study is the high rate of compliance in spite of the fact that participants were not using TCSMS as part of active treatment, which could be assumed to be a major factor in reducing compliance from reaching even higher levels. While there is not a shortage of research on compliance with weekly homework assigned by therapists, there is so little methodological consistency across studies (Kazantzis, Deana, and Ronin, 2004), that is it difficult to truly know what the true picture of compliance is across the spectrum of psychotherapeutic intervention. Kazentzis, et al's (2004) meta-analysis reviewed 32 studies of homework compliance and found very little consistency in rater (e.g. patient, clinician, independent rater), definition of "compliance" (e.g., some vs. all homework, amount of time spent on homework or quality of homework). Nonetheless there is ample anecdotal evidence to suggest that there are significant challenges to consistent follow through with assigned homework. Patients "forget" homework at home, or "in the car." Patients complete daily homework in the waiting room.

Although diagnostically, the symptoms of bipolar disorder are conceptualized as either present or absent, the reality appears to be considerably more complex. Not only are patients very often subsyndromally symptomatic, but subsyndromal symptoms and depression in particular, are quite impairing. Further exploration of this phenomenon can contribute to improved diagnostic and etiological understanding of bipolar disorder. TCSMS offers a new method of collecting these data that can potentially contribute to this body of research.

Monitoring patients for subsyndromal symptoms is an essential part of treatment and should be considered in longitudinal research as well. With long-term monitoring of mood and

related patterns, for certain individuals, hypomania and subsyndromal depression could serve as predictors of more damaging manic and major depressive episodes, allowing early pharmacological or psychotherapeutic intervention. The TCSMS provides the unique advantage of tracking mood between sessions, and if these mood-state predictors are accurate, they may provide more definitive assessment of risk for suicide, self-harm or risky behaviors than traditional clinical assessment.

A new iteration of TCSMS allows patients to add events (e.g. medication changes) and to track behavioral patterns (e.g. sleep and exercise) which can facilitate a better understanding of antecedents to mood changes. Future iterations of the TCSMS may be even more customizable for each patient, allowing for the monitoring of variables such as hours slept, quality of sleep, stress, medication adherence, exercise and food intake. Correlations within each individual between these behaviors and mood change could then be determined. Moreover more frequent assessments may facilitate the examination of predictors of individual response, moderators of treatment effects, and the mechanisms/active ingredients associated with improvement or destabilization in pharmacological or psychosocial treatment. In turn, these findings may help us to understand when and how to intervene more efficiently to prevent recurrence. For example, if a patient is reporting an increase in depression, a clinician may more aggressively pursue an intervention that targets the specific symptoms of depression the particular patient is endorsing on the QIDS. If a patient endorses higher scores on items one through four, which relate to sleep, and TCSMS trends have suggested this particular patient is particularly susceptible to worsening depression when sleep begins to become disrupted, a clinician may implement a brief CBT-I (cognitive behavioral therapy for insomnia) (Edinger & Carney, 2008), thus potentially mitigating a worsening depressive episode. Conversely if a patient reports high scores on item

three of the ASRMS, which relates to decreased need for sleep, a clinician might prescribe a higher dose of a particular mood-stabilizer as a "rescue medication" to avert a potentially damaging escalation.

Ultimately this technology could be used to help patients better understand the course of their illness, and to allow treatment providers to intervene either medically or psychotherapeutically where appropriate. Patients who regularly monitor their mood are able to notice shifts in mood that are often lost to memory, or clouded by current mood symptomatology. Clinicians can use mood and behavior charting to show patients that certain psychosocial stressors such as irregular sleep and substance use may contribute to mood instability. Mood charting can also help patients track mood trends after medication changes or cognitive behavioral interventions. Again, mood-dependent recall biases can often pose a challenge to recognizing that a particular intervention is having a desired or undesired effect, so it is necessary to track these events and behaviors in real time. These kinds of insights are often challenging to elicit without the objective evidence provided by these kinds of regular self-reports.

Future development of the TCSMS could also include alerts to patients and care providers if a particular behavior (e.g. changes in sleep patterns) that is known to precede destabilization is reported. It may ultimately be possible, given enough data, to predict destabilization for a certain individual. Before such data are collected however, it would be possible to set alerts when behaviors that are already known to indicate or potentially precede destabilization in the average patient with bipolar disorder. For example, Leibenluft, Albert, Rosenthal, and Wher (1996) have shown than decreases in sleep duration predict mania. Johnson, et al. (2000) have shown that goal attainment can predict manic episodes. As each individual's unique patterns become evident, however, additional alert paradigms can be added to that patient's profile. In a sense, the system could "learn" each patient's patterns and predictors, creating a truly customized monitoring, tracking and alert system.

Conclusion

In summary, the TrueColours Self-Management system is a feasible alternative to traditional pencil-and-paper mood monitoring methods, and may be a reliable and valid alternative to more formal diagnostic and assessment tools. Participants demonstrated high levels of compliance with the weekly protocol. Results also demonstrated TCSMS differentiated bipolar and non-bipolar participants on levels and variability of depression over time. Similar to previously published research, adolescents with bipolar disorder reported more depressive than manic or hypomanic symptoms and minimal symptomatic remission. Within the bipolar group results suggested an increased risk for polarity switching and mixed mood states with increased ratings of weekly manic and hypomanic symptoms. To our knowledge this is the first study using text messaging as primary means for adolescents diagnosed with bipolar disorder to report weekly moods. With longer follow-up, we anticipate the less common symptoms of mania and hypomania to appear, and to demonstrate the ability of TCSMS to more fully differentiate bipolar and non-bipolar adolescents. TCSMS offers promise as an alternative to traditional longitudinal data collection methods in bipolar research, and the possibility of predictive ability that may assist in anticipating and mitigating the potentially destructive effects of the extremes of mood and behavior that characterize adolescent bipolar disorder

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