

# ADHD vs. Bipolar Disorder

## Clinical Case Discussion

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Article

**Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial  
of Mixed Amphetamine Salts for Symptoms  
of Comorbid ADHD in Pediatric Bipolar Disorder  
After Mood Stabilization With Divalproex Sodium**

**Russell E. Scheffer, M.D.**

**Robert A. Kowatch, M.D.**

**Thomas Carmody, Ph.D.**

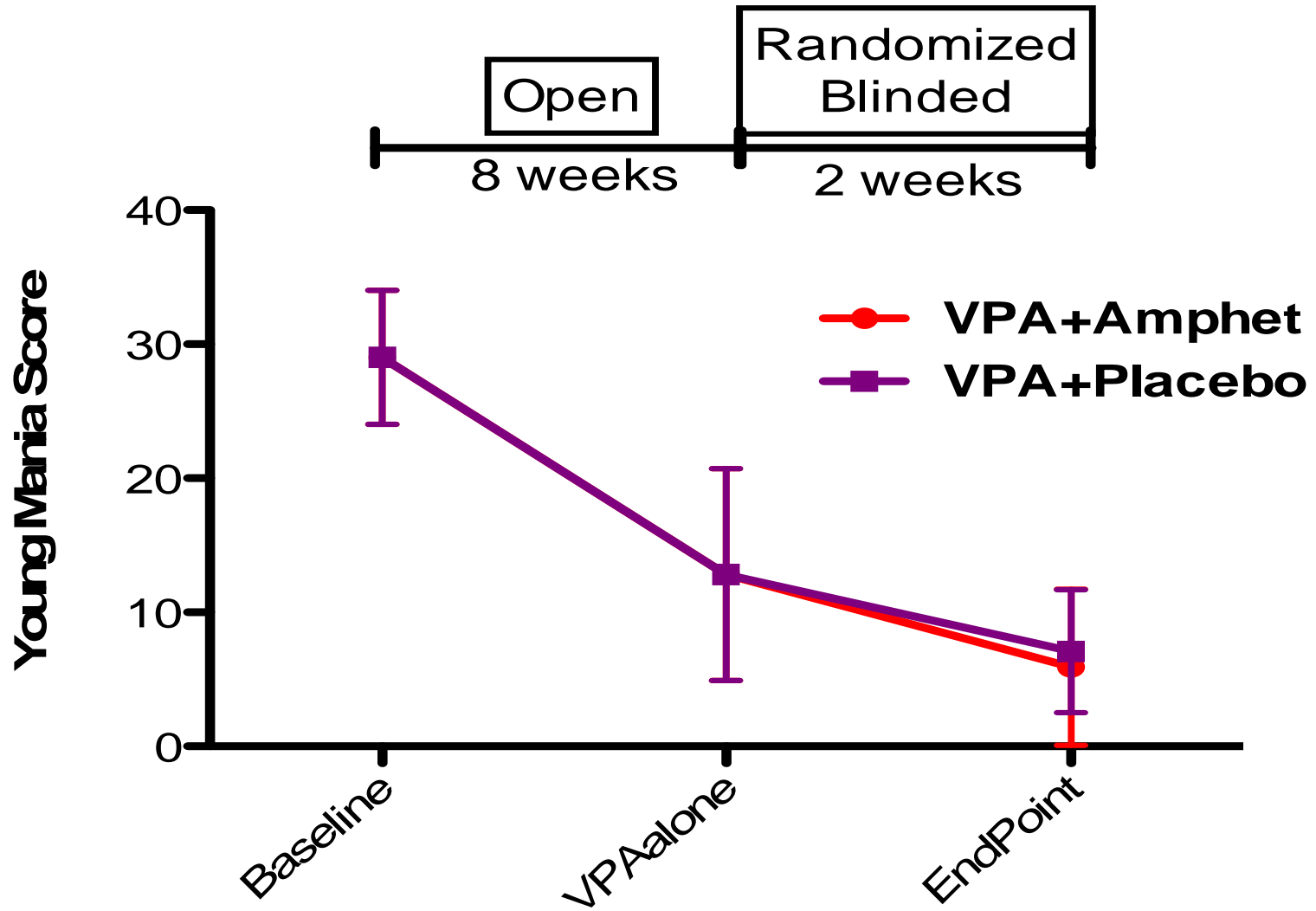
**A. John Rush, M.D.**

***(Am J Psychiatry 2005; 162:58–64)***

# Patients

- Total of 40 patients recruited
- 30 patients randomized
- Average age 10 y.o.
- One patient on amphetamine experienced mania

# Results



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***Original Article***

# Methylphenidate Combined with Aripiprazole in Children and Adolescents with Bipolar Disorder and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A Randomized Crossover Trial

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Gabriel Ferreira Pheula, M.D., and Luis Augusto Rohde, Ph.D.

# Results

- Studied 16 kids
- 6 weeks open on aripiprazole followed by 4 weeks blinded randomization
- 9 randomized to aripiprazole + methylphenidate
- 7 randomized to aripiprazole + placebo
- **No differences in mania ratings**
- One patient on both meds had mixed mania

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***Original Article***

# Atomoxetine as an Adjunct Therapy in the Treatment of Co-Morbid Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Children and Adolescents with Bipolar I or II Disorder

Kiki Chang, M.D., Daphne Nayar, B.A., Meghan Howe, M.S.W., and Manasi Rana, M.D.

# Subjects

- Open 8 week study
- 12 kids, average age 11.3 years, (7 males)
- All on mood stabilizers (11) or antipsychotics(8)
- Added atomoxetine at average of 59.2 mg/day
- 92% experienced a decrease in ADHD score
- No change in mania ratings



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# Response to Methylphenidate in Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Manic Symptoms in the Multimodal Treatment Study of Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Titration Trial

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# Results

- Children with ADHD and manic symptoms (n=32 or n=29 depending on definition)
- Treated with methylphenidate monotherapy for 1 month
- No worsening of manic symptoms

# Stimulants not a problem

- Rare case reports of mania associated with stimulant treatment
- Most studies find that stimulants improved symptoms of aggression and irritability
- Most studies with co-morbid bipolar illness or co-morbid manic symptoms find that stimulants do not worsen the manic symptoms

# Stimulants and Aggression

- Nearly all studies, open or randomized, show that stimulants reduce aggression in a wide range of childhood disorders

# Stimulants and Bipolar Disorder

- Stimulants have shown efficacy in the treatment of bipolar disorder related depression in adults
- No studies have found that stimulants increase mania
- 2 randomized, blinded acute studies show that IV amphetamine acutely reduces manic symptoms in manic in patients.