BIPOLAR DISORDER SELF-ASSESSMENT TEST
(Clinician version)

Introduction
This self-completed measure provides a first-stage screen for the possibility of Bipolar Disorder by assessing features of ‘highs’. It was initially made available in October 2001 and was further refined in May 2005 on the basis of several Institute research studies and feedback from the community.

Author
Professor Gordon Parker.

Scoring instructions
Items are scored as follows:
Much more than usual = 2
Somewhat more than usual = 1
No more than usual = 0
The total score is the sum of all 27 items.

Results
22 or more
A score of 22 or more, together with episodes of clinical depression, suggest possible Bipolar I or II Disorder, and would warrant detailed clinical assessment.

Less than 22
A score of less than 22 is only returned by about 2% of those with true Bipolar Disorder, so that if the score is less than 22, the likelihood of the individual having the condition is low – but cannot be excluded.

This self-assessment test may also be done online, on the Black Dog Institute website – at: www.blackdoginstitute.org.au
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This Self-Assessment Test comprises three initial questions followed by a checklist. Only if you answer ‘yes’ to the first three questions should you continue on with the checklist. At the end of the test you will be given your results.

**Firstly**, have you had episodes of clinical depression – involving a period of **at least 2 weeks** where you were significantly depressed and unable to work or only able to work with difficulty – and had at least 4 of the following:

- Loss of interest and pleasure in most things
- Appetite or weight change
- Sleep disturbance
- Physical slowing or agitation
- Fatigue or low energy
- Feeling hopeless and helpless
- Poor concentration
- Suicidal thoughts?

If YES, proceed.

**Secondly**, do you have times when your mood ‘cycles’, that is, do you experience ‘ups’ as well as depressive episodes?

If YES, proceed.

**Thirdly**, during the ‘ups’ do you feel more ‘wired’ and ‘hyper’ than you would experience during times of normal happiness?

If YES, proceed.

Please complete the checklist below, rating the extent to which each item applies to you during such ‘up’ times.
1. Feel more confident and capable
2. See things in a new and exciting light
3. Feel very creative with lots of ideas and plans
4. Become over-involved in new plans and projects
5. Become totally confident that everything you do will succeed
6. Feel that things are very vivid and crystal clear
7. Spend, or wish to spend, significant amounts of money
8. Find that your thoughts race
9. Notice lots of coincidences occurring
10. Note that your senses are heightened and your emotions intensified
11. Work harder, being much more motivated
12. Feel one with the world and nature
13. Believe that things possess a ‘special meaning’
14. Say quite outrageous things
15. Feel ‘high as a kite’, elated, ecstatic and ‘the best ever’
16. Feel irritated
17. Feel quite carefree, not worried about anything
18. Have much increased interest in sex (whether thoughts and/or actions)
19. Feel very impatient with people
20. Laugh more and find lots of things humorous
21. Read special significance into things
22. Talk over people
23. Have quite mystical experiences
24. Do fairly outrageous things
25. Sleep less and not feel tired
26. Sing
27. Feel angry

Your doctor will help you score and understand this test when you are finished.