



**IGSLi**

International Group for the Study of Lithium Treated Patients

Founded 1988 by Mogens Schou, MD

# Tratamiento con litio: Estado del Arte 2017

## Educación Médica Continua SOCHITAB

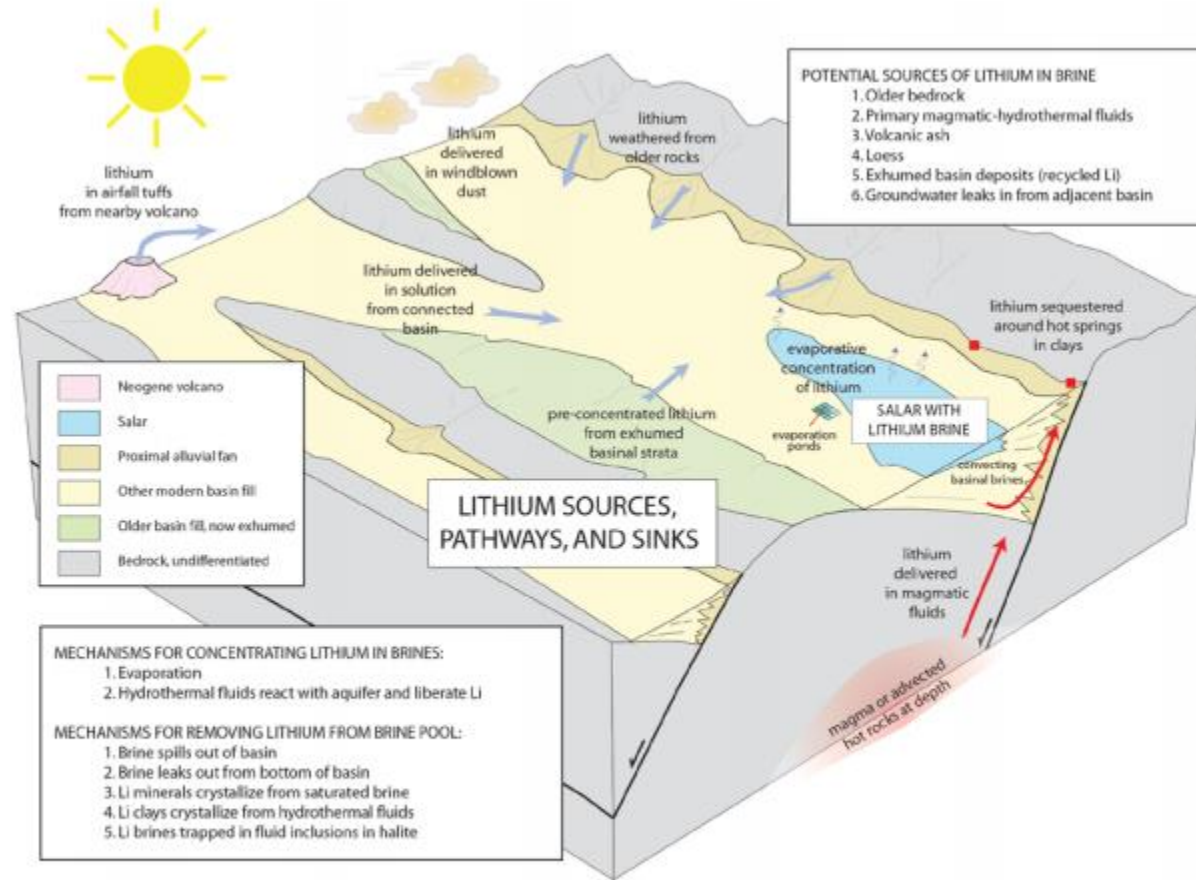
18 Mayo 2017 Hotel Intercontinental Santiago



Dr. Jorge Cabrera  
Prof. Adjunto Psiquiatría U. De Chile  
Programa Enfermedades Afectivas  
Instituto Psiquiátrico Dr. José Horwitz



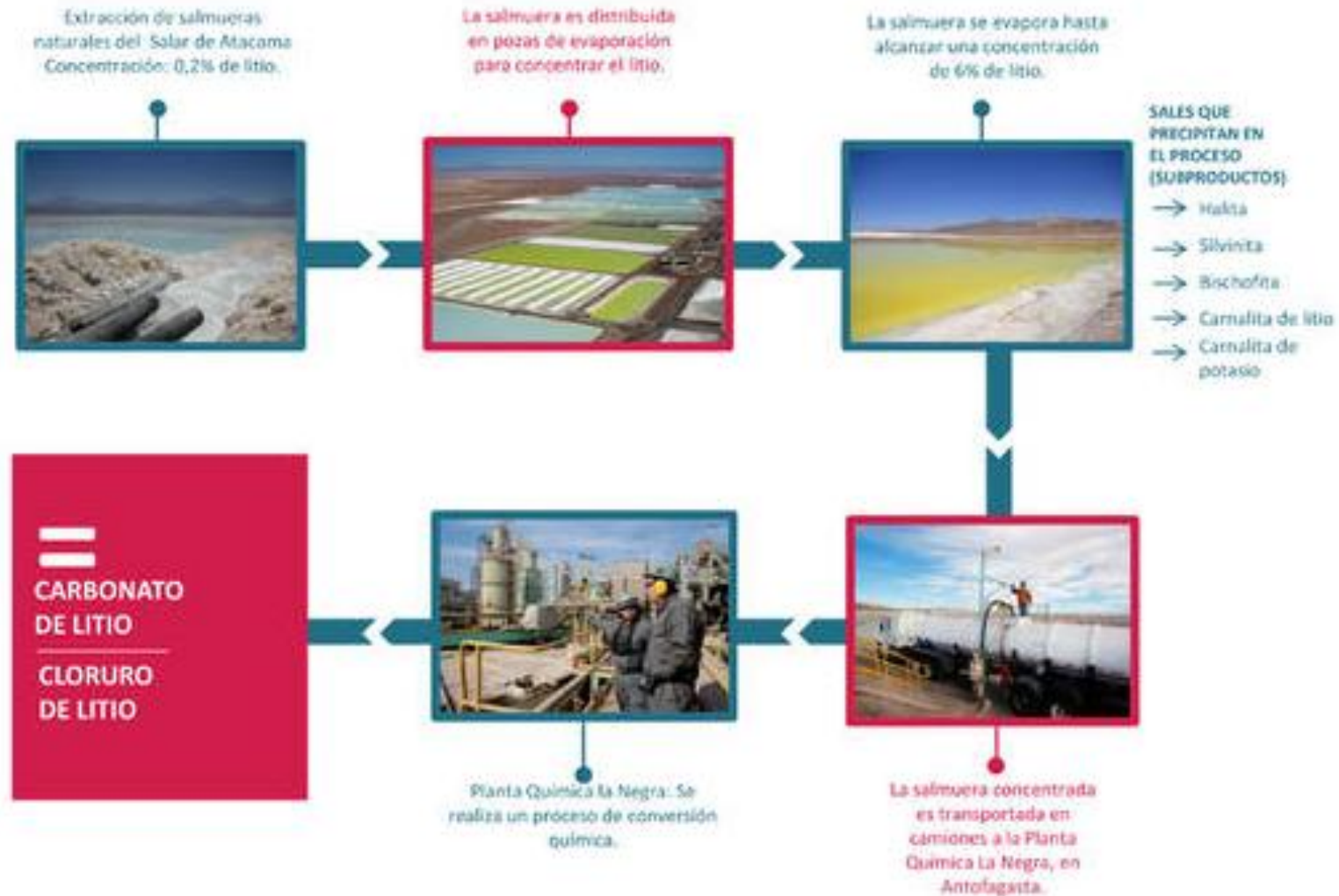
# ¿Cómo se acumula el litio en el salar?



**Figure 1.** Schematic deposit model for lithium brines showing part of a closed-basin system consisting of interconnected subbasins. The subbasin containing the salar is the lowest.



# Extracción de litio desde Salar de Atacama



# Un viaje desde el Pasado al Futuro: 68 años de investigación con litio

- Efecto antimaníaco (Cade, 1949)
- Efecto en prevención de recaídas en trastornos del ánimo recurrentes (Schou, Baastrup, 1950s/60s)
- Potenciación en depression resistente (de Montigny, 1981)
- Actividad antisuicida (IGSLi, Müller-Oerlinghausen, Baldessarini (1990s)
- Efecto neuroprotector (Manji, 2000)

# Litio 2017 – ¿Dónde estamos ahora?

- Efecto antimaniaco (1949/50s) +++
- Efecto preventivo de recaídas en trastornos del ánimo recurrente (desde 1950s/60s) +++
- Depresión bipolar (1970s) +
- Potenciación en depresión (1981) ++(+)
- Efecto antisuicida (1990s) ++
- Efecto neuroprotector (2000) ++básico +clínico

+++ evidencia muy buena; ++ evidencia buena; + evidencia baja

# Litio en el tratamiento de la manía



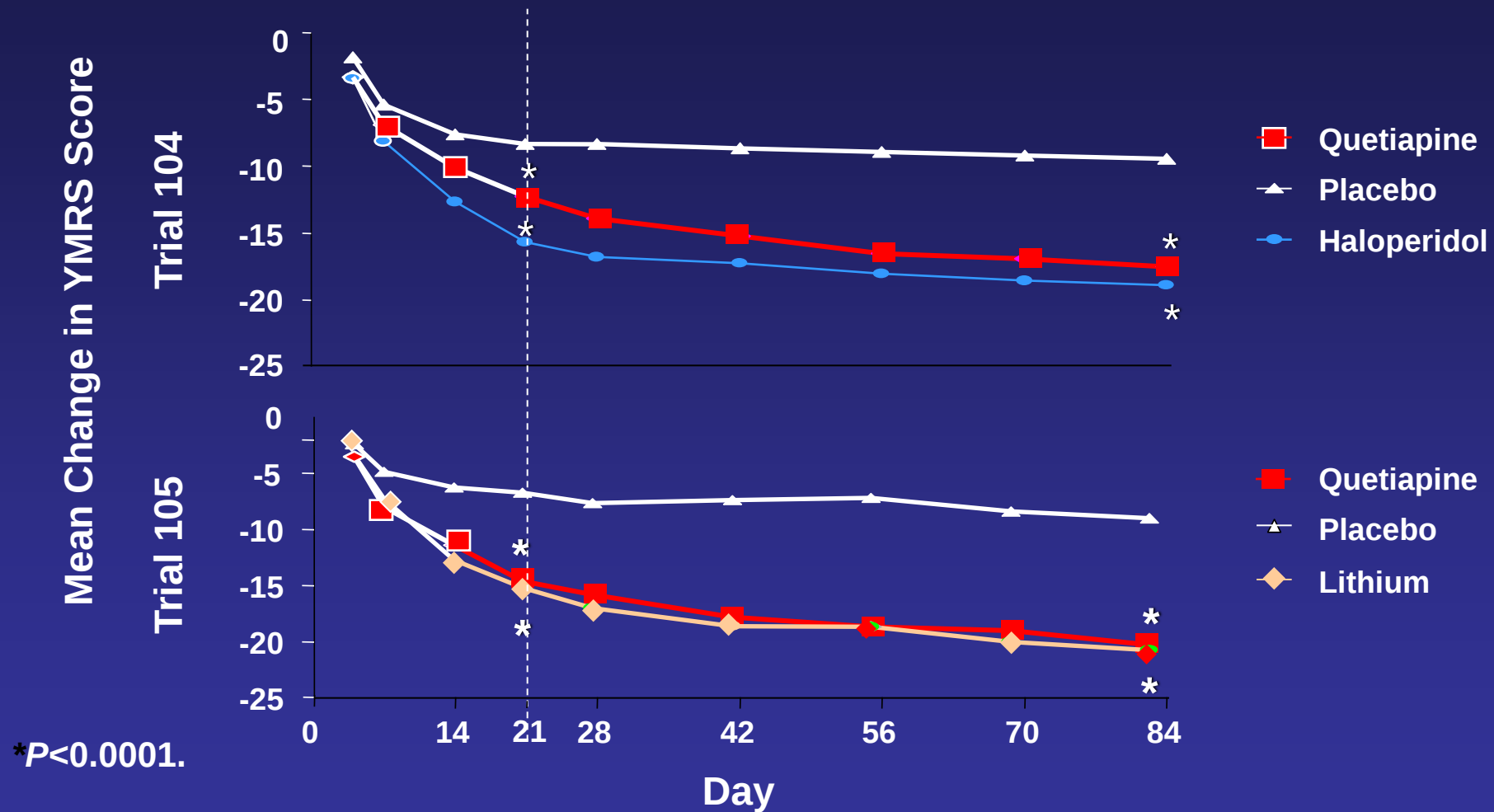
# • Mogens Schou

- 1920-2005 Aarhus, Dinamarca
- Fundador de la investigación científica en la psiquiatría moderna
- Realizó el primer estudio doble ciego de litio controlado con placebo en manía aguda en 1954, y de prevención de recaídas en 1967
- Lithiumbehandling af manio-depressiv sygdom 1978. Information for Arzt und Patienten

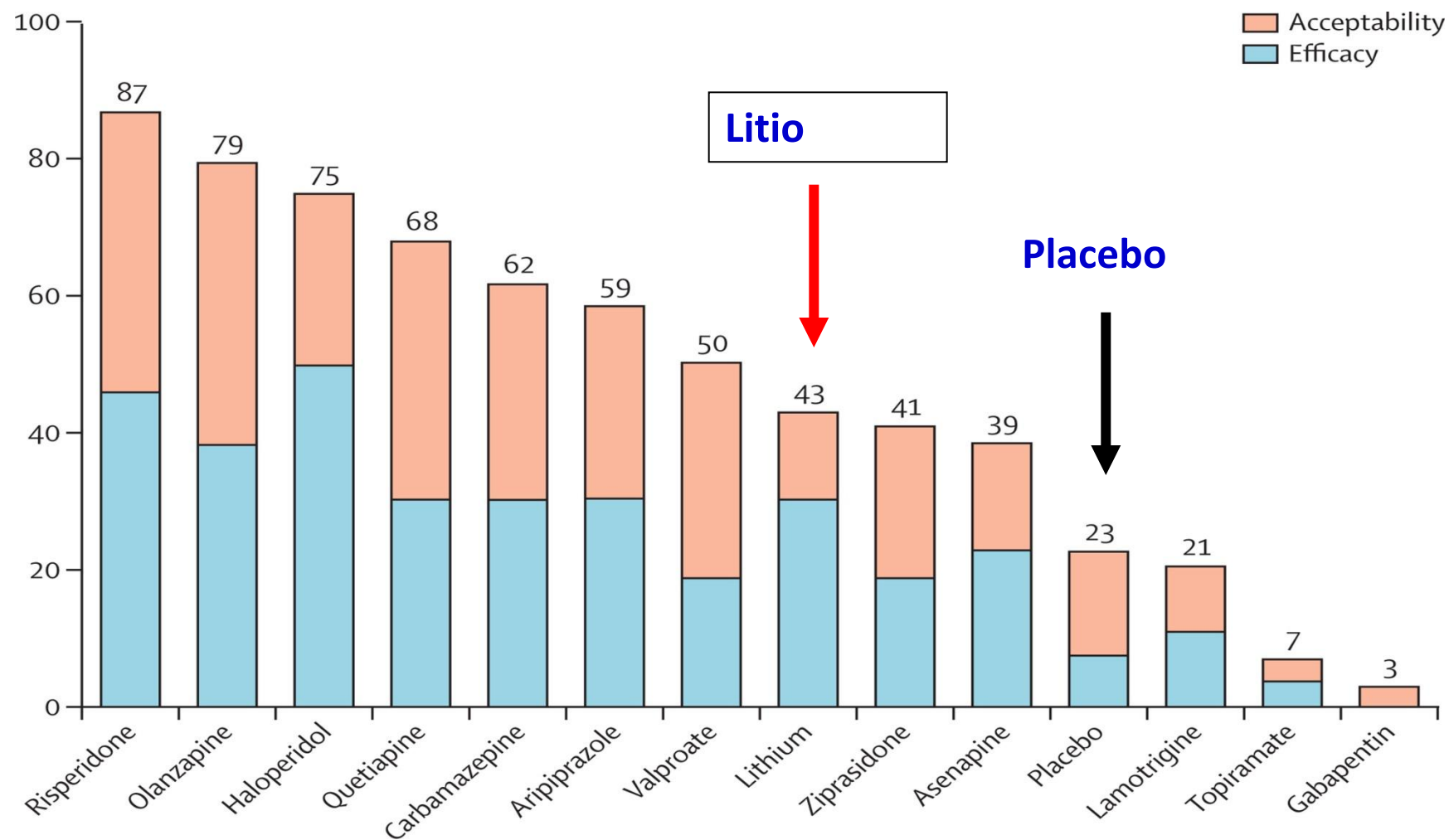


*Schou M et al J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiat 1954; 17:250-260  
Baastrup PC, Schou M Arch Gen Psychiat 1967; 16:162-172  
Schou M Nervenarzt 1971;42:1-10  
Schou Mogens. Rev Chil Neuro Psiquiat 1990; 28: 3-11  
Schou M. Rev. Psiquiatría Chil 1991; 8: 669-674*

# Quetiapine vs placebo en manía versus haloperidol y litio (validadores internos)



## Eficacia comparativa y aceptabilidad de medicamentos en manía aguda: un metaanálisis de múltiples tratamientos

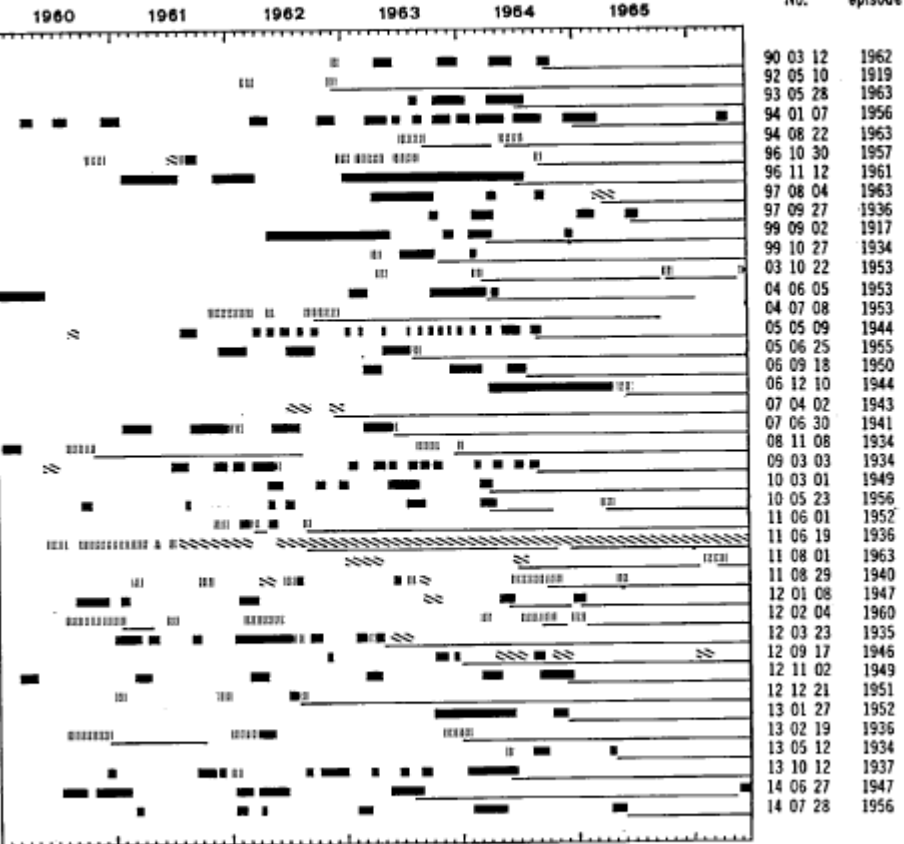


# Litio en la prevención de recaídas del trastorno bipolar

# Litio en prevención de Recaídas

## SIGNATURES

■■■■■■■■ mania  
 ■■■■■■■■ depression  
 ■■■■■■■■ mixed form and/or rapid manic-depressive alternations  
 ———— lithium administration  
 ———— lithium dosage increased

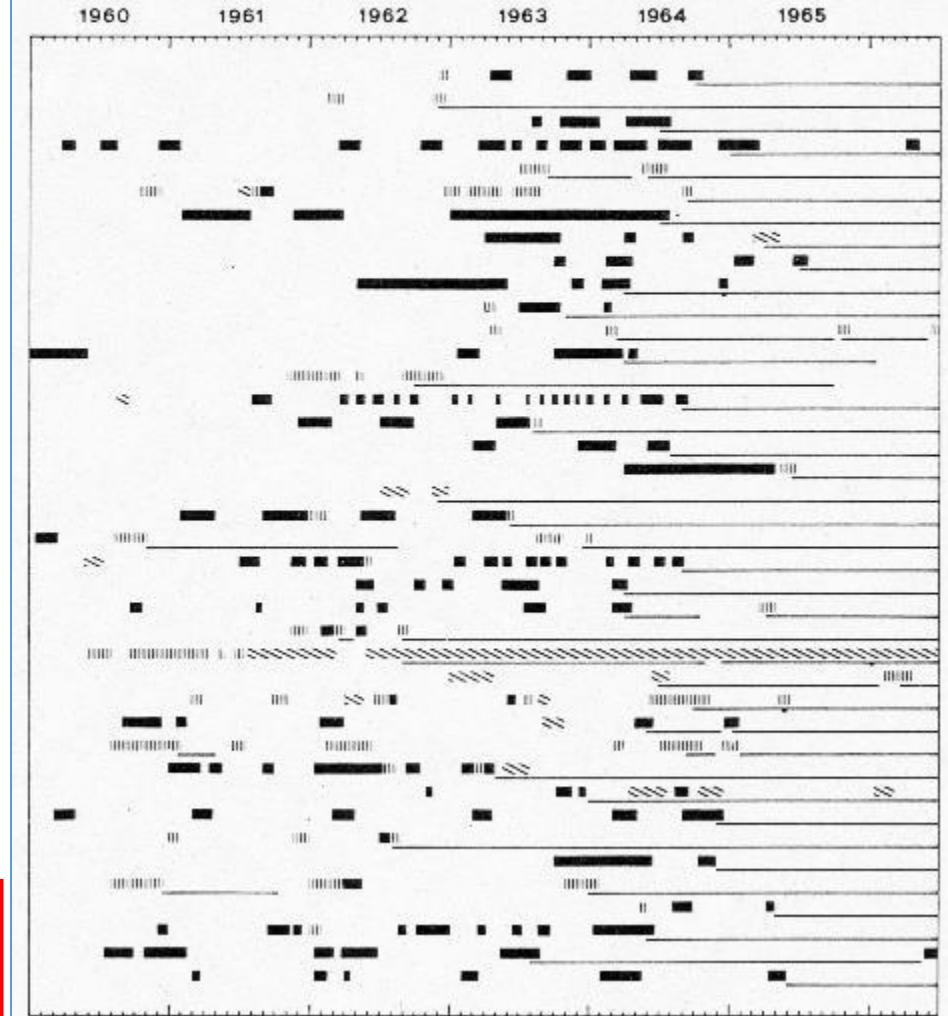


Diagrammatic presentation of the case histories. The patients are arranged according to age; the first two digits of each case number indicate the year of birth. In the second column is shown the year when the first manic or depressive episode appeared. The diagram shows, for each patient, all psychotic episodes that occurred between Jan 1, 1960, and July 1, 1966.

Arch Gen Psychiat—Vol 16, Feb 1967

## SIGNATURES

■■■■■■■■ mania  
 ■■■■■■■■ depression  
 ■■■■■■■■ mixed form and/or rapid manic-depressive alternations  
 ———— lithium administration  
 ———— lithium dosage increased



**RESEARCH**

**Open Access**

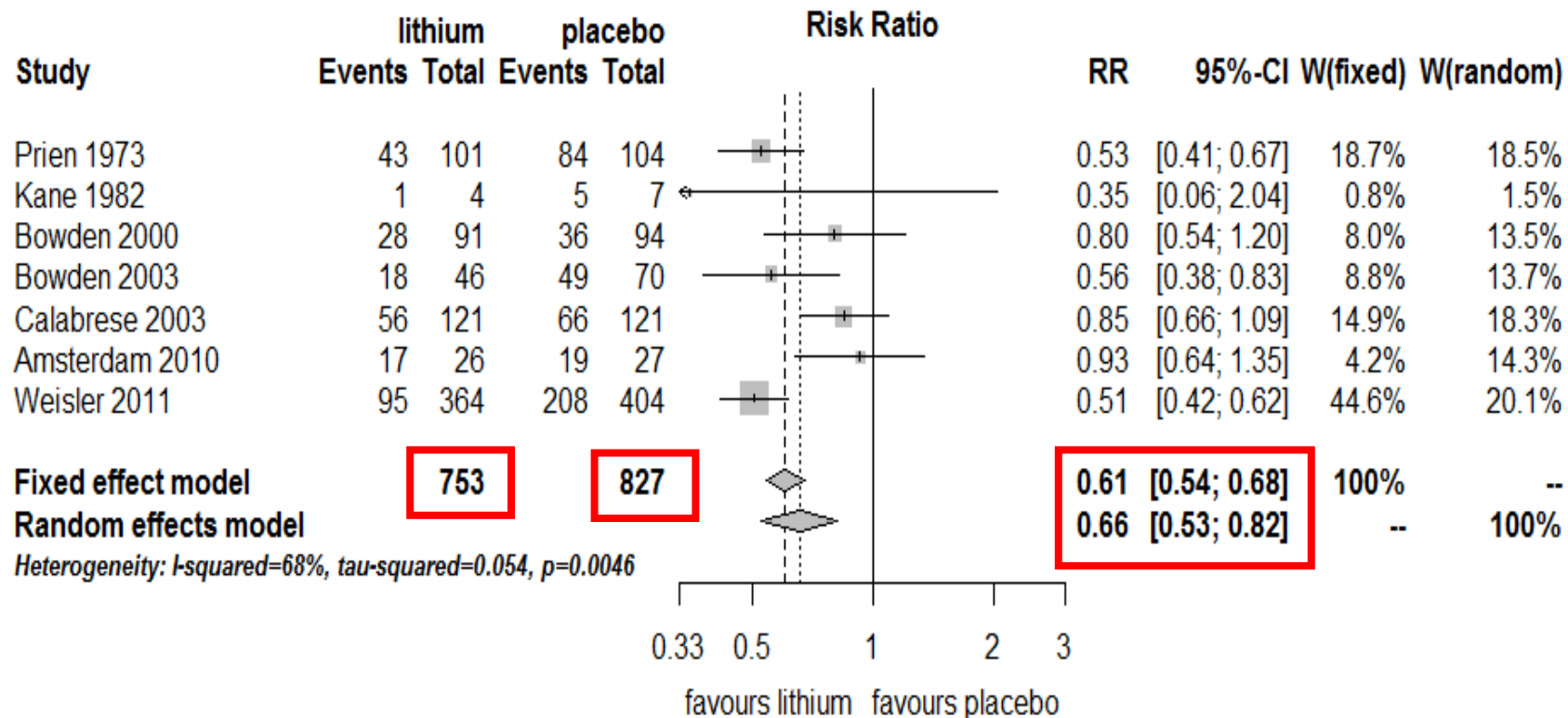
# Lithium for prevention of mood episodes in bipolar disorders: systematic review and meta-analysis

Emanuel Severus<sup>1\*†</sup>, Matthew J Taylor<sup>2†</sup>, Cathrin Sauer<sup>1</sup>, Andrea Pfennig<sup>1</sup>, Philipp Ritter<sup>1</sup>, Michael Bauer<sup>1</sup> and John R Geddes<sup>3</sup>

# Litio en la prevención de recaídas del trastorno bipolar

## RCTs controlados con placebo

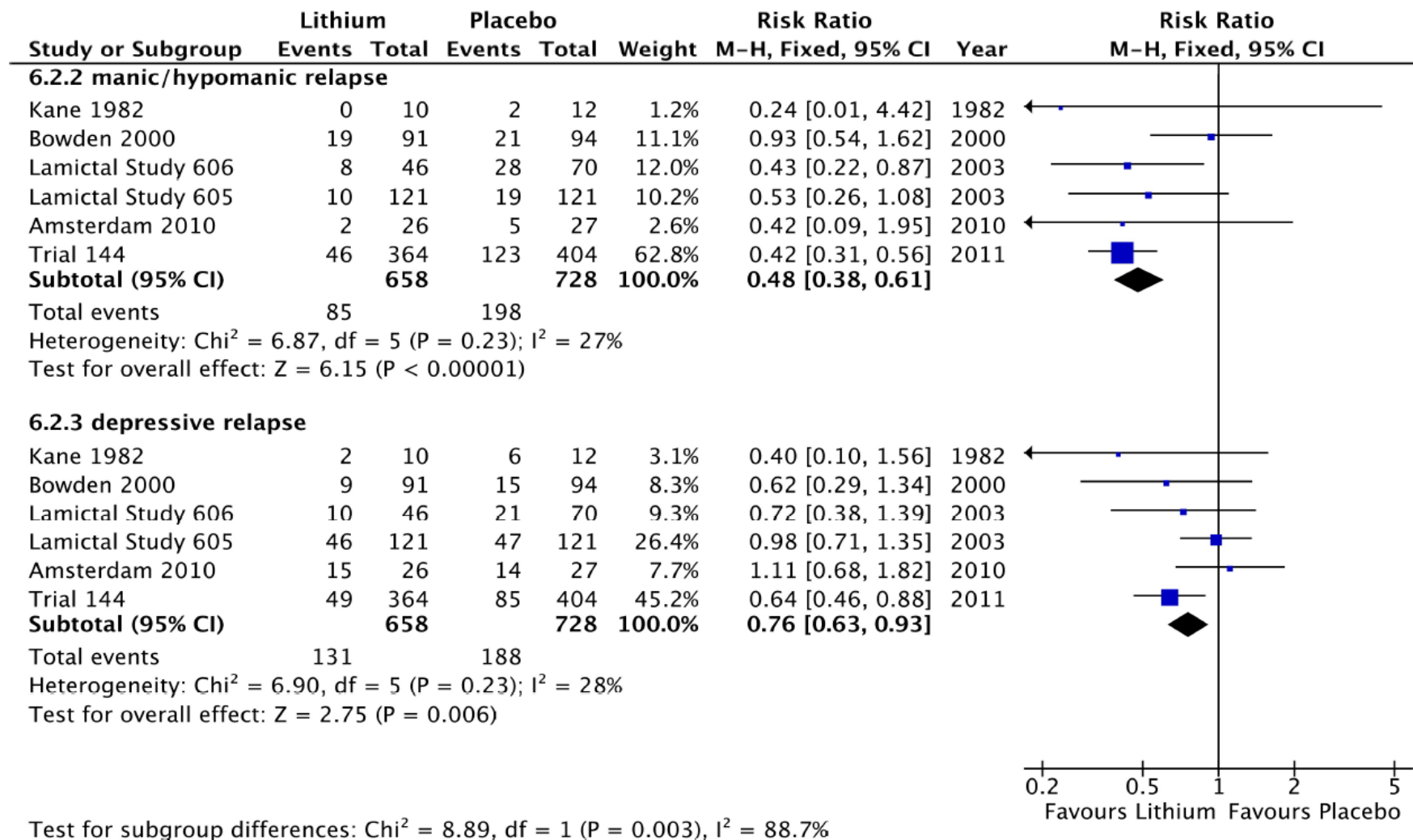
Prevención de cualquier tipo de episodio (manía y depresión)



# Litio en la prevención de recaídas en trastorno bipolar

## RCTs controlados con Placebo

### Prevención de episodios depresivos y maníacos



# Estudio BALANCE prevención de episodios pacientes bipolares comparó litio, valproato y combinación

## THE LANCET

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Articles

### Lithium plus valproate combination therapy versus monotherapy for relapse prevention in bipolar I disorder (BALANCE): a randomised open-label trial

The BALANCE investigators and collaborators<sup>†</sup>

†

- Método

- 330 pacientes mayores de 16 años fueron reclutados en 41 sitios en Inglaterra, Francia, USA e Italia y asignados en forma aleatoria a monoterapia con litio (litemia entre 0;4-1.0 mmol/l, n=110); monoterapia con valproato (750-1250mg, n=110), o ambos agentes combinados (n=110), después de una fase inicial de 4-8 semanas de prueba de tolerancia a la combinación.

- La randomización se hizo con un programa computacional y los participantes y los investigadores fueron informados del grupo asignado. Diseño no enriquecido
- La medida de evaluación primaria fue el inicio de una nueva intervención para tratar un nuevo episodio del ánimo

# Resultados

|                                            | Combination<br>(n=110)* | Lithium (n=110)  | Valproate semisodium<br>(n=110) |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>New intervention for mood episode</b>   |                         |                  |                                 |
| Number of patients with event (%)          | 59 (54%)                | 65 (59%)         | 76 (69%)                        |
| HR (95% CI)                                | 1.00                    | 0.82 (0.58-1.17) | 0.59 (0.42-0.83)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.27             | 0.0023                          |
| Adjusted HR† (95% CI)                      | 1.00                    | 0.80 (0.57-1.15) | 0.57 (0.40-0.80)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.23             | 0.0014                          |
| <b>Hospital admission</b>                  |                         |                  |                                 |
| Number of patients with event (%)          | 16 (15%)                | 22 (20%)         | 25 (23%)                        |
| HR (95% CI)                                | 1.00                    | 0.74 (0.37-1.33) | 0.59 (0.32-1.11)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.28             | 0.10                            |
| Adjusted HR† (95% CI)                      | 1.00                    | 0.72 (0.38-1.38) | 0.51 (0.27-0.96)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.32             | 0.0383                          |
| <b>New drug treatment for mood episode</b> |                         |                  |                                 |
| Number of patients with event (%)          | 58 (53%)                | 64 (58%)         | 75 (68%)                        |
| HR (95% CI)                                | 1.00                    | 0.82 (0.57-1.17) | 0.60 (0.42-0.84)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.27             | 0.0031                          |
| Adjusted HR† (95% CI)                      | 1.00                    | 0.80 (0.56-1.14) | 0.57 (0.40-0.80)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.21             | 0.0014                          |
| <b>New treatment for mania</b>             |                         |                  |                                 |
| Number of patients with event (%)          | 30 (27%)                | 40 (36%)         | 49 (45%)                        |
| HR (95% CI)                                | 1.00                    | 0.67 (0.42-1.08) | 0.51 (0.32-0.80)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.10             | 0.0034                          |
| Adjusted HR† (95% CI)                      | 1.00                    | 0.66 (0.41-1.07) | 0.50 (0.31-0.79)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.09             | 0.0030                          |
| <b>New treatment for depression</b>        |                         |                  |                                 |
| Number of patients with event (%)          | 39 (35%)                | 35 (32%)         | 50 (45%)                        |
| HR (95% CI)                                | 1.00                    | 1.12 (0.71-1.76) | 0.70 (0.46-1.07)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.63             | 0.10                            |
| Adjusted HR† (95% CI)                      | 1.00                    | 1.06 (0.67-1.67) | 0.71 (0.46-1.08)                |
| p value                                    | --                      | 0.81             | 0.11                            |

(Continues on next page)

# Interpretación de los resultados por los autores

- Para los pacientes con trastorno bipolar I con indicación de terapia de mantenimiento, **tanto la combinación de litio más valproato como la monoterapia con litio, son más probable que prevengan las recaídas** que la monoterapia con valproato.
- Estos beneficios parecen ser independientes de la severidad de la enfermedad y se mantienen por dos años.
- El estudio BALANCE no pudo confiablemente **confirmar ni refutar un beneficio de la combinación comparado con el litio**

# Metaanálisis tratamiento de mantenimiento del trastorno bipolar

## Comparative efficacy and tolerability of pharmacological treatments in the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder: a systematic review and network meta-analysis



Tomofumi Miura, Hisashi Noma, Toshi A Furukawa, Hiroshi Mitsuyasu, Shiro Tanaka, Sarah Stockton, Georgia Salanti, Keisuke Motomura, Satomi Shimano-Katsuki, Stefan Leucht, Andrea Cipriani, John R Geddes, Shigenobu Kanba

### Summary

**Background** Lithium is the established standard in the long-term treatment of bipolar disorder, but several new drugs have been assessed for this indication. We did a network meta-analysis to investigate the comparative efficacy and tolerability of available pharmacological treatment strategies for bipolar disorder.

**Methods** We systematically searched Embase, Medline, PreMedline, PsycINFO, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials for randomised controlled trials published before June 28, 2013, that compared active treatments for bipolar disorder (or placebo), either as monotherapy or as add-on treatment, for at least 12 weeks. The primary outcomes were the number of participants with recurrence of any mood episode, and the number of participants who discontinued the trial because of adverse events. We assessed efficacy and tolerability of bipolar treatments using a random-effects network meta-analysis within a Bayesian framework.

**Findings** We screened 114 potentially eligible studies and identified 33 randomised controlled trials, published between 1970 and 2012, that examined 17 treatments for bipolar disorder (or placebo) in 6846 participants. Participants assigned to all assessed treatments had a significantly lower risk of any mood relapse or recurrence compared with placebo, except for those assigned to aripiprazole (risk ratio [RR] 0.62, 95% credible interval [CrI] 0.38–1.03), carbamazepine (RR 0.68, 0.44–1.06), imipramine (RR 0.95, 0.66–1.36), and paliperidone (RR 0.84, 0.56–1.24). Lamotrigine and placebo were significantly better tolerated than carbamazepine (lamotrigine, RR 5.24, 1.07–26.32; placebo, RR 3.60, 1.04–12.94), lithium (RR 3.76, 1.13–12.66; RR 2.58, 1.33–5.39), or lithium plus valproate (RR 5.95, 1.02–33.33; RR 4.09, 1.01–16.96).

**Interpretation** Although most of the drugs analysed were more efficacious than placebo and generally well tolerated, differences in the quality of evidence and the side-effect profiles should be taken into consideration by clinicians and patients. In view of the efficacy in prevention of both manic episode and depressive episode relapse or recurrence and the better quality of the supporting evidence, lithium should remain the first-line treatment when prescribing a relapse-prevention drug in patients with bipolar disorder, notwithstanding its tolerability profile.

**Funding** None.

*Lancet Psychiatry* 2014;  
1: 351–59

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- 33 estudios controlados
- Realizados entre 1970 y 2012
- 6876 pacientes
- 17 tratamientos trastorno bipolar

# Comparative efficacy and tolerability of pharmacological treatments in the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder: a systematic review and network meta-analysis



Tomofumi Miura, Hisashi Noma, Toshi A Furukawa, Hiroshi Mitsuyasu, Shiro Tanaka, Sarah Stockton, Georgia Salanti, Keisuke Motomura, Satomi Shimano-Katsuki, Stefan Leucht, Andrea Cipriani, John R Geddes, Shigenobu Kanba

## Summary

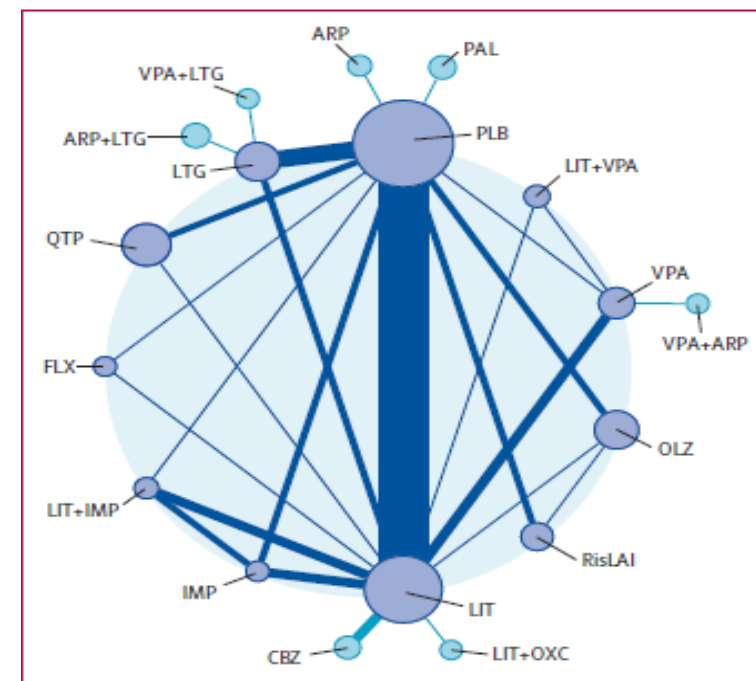
**Background** Lithium is the established standard in the long-term treatment of bipolar disorder, but several new drugs have been assessed for this indication. We did a network meta-analysis to investigate the comparative efficacy and tolerability of available pharmacological treatment strategies for bipolar disorder.

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|                     | Tolerability (discontinuation due to adverse event; 95% CrI) |                      | Comparison           |                     | Efficacy (any mood episode relapse; 95% CrI) |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                       |                      |                      |                     |  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| ARP+VPA             | 0.04<br>(0.00-1.64)                                          | 0.07<br>(0.00-2.01)  | 0.13<br>(0.00-3.56)  | 0.04<br>(0.00-1.01) | 0.15<br>(0.00-5.77)                          | 0.02<br>(0.00-1.88)  | 0.06<br>(0.00-1.49)  | 0.04<br>(0.00-1.69)  | 0.12<br>(0.01-2.40)  | 0.09<br>(0.00-2.87)  | 0.04<br>(0.00-1.33)  | 0.23<br>(0.01-7.41)  | 0.14<br>(0.00-4.88)  | 0.06<br>(0.00-9.80)   | 0.16<br>(0.00-4.28)  | 0.11<br>(0.00-4.93)  | 1.15<br>(0.01-3.00) |  |
| 0.71<br>(0.22-2.27) | LIT+OXC                                                      | 1.82<br>(0.24-12.20) | 3.24<br>(0.44-23.26) | 0.97<br>(0.11-8.77) | 3.80<br>(0.33-44.39)                         | 0.45<br>(0.04-19.81) | 1.54<br>(0.26-9.16)  | 0.85<br>(0.05-13.79) | 2.95<br>(0.34-25.00) | 2.23<br>(0.24-19.23) | 1.10<br>(0.14-8.78)  | 5.78<br>(0.65-50.00) | 3.37<br>(0.29-40.00) | 1.41<br>(0.02-103.69) | 3.98<br>(0.60-27.00) | 2.65<br>(0.17-45.65) | 28.57<br>(0.51-100) |  |
| 0.58<br>(0.22-1.55) | 0.81<br>(0.40-1.63)                                          | OLZ                  | 1.78<br>(0.64-6.13)  | 0.53<br>(0.13-2.67) | 2.08<br>(0.35-13.89)                         | 0.25<br>(0.01-7.58)  | 0.84<br>(0.40-2.13)  | 0.47<br>(0.05-4.43)  | 1.62<br>(0.42-7.58)  | 1.22<br>(0.36-4.55)  | 0.61<br>(0.27-2.47)  | 3.37<br>(0.84-13.63) | 1.85<br>(0.33-11.76) | 0.77<br>(0.01-48.91)  | 2.18<br>(0.05-6.13)  | 1.45<br>(0.15-14.28) | 15.52<br>(0.43-100) |  |
| 0.55<br>(0.20-1.49) | 0.77<br>(0.38-1.57)                                          | 0.96<br>(0.66-1.34)  | QTP                  | 0.30<br>(0.07-1.38) | 1.17<br>(0.18-7.13)                          | 0.14<br>(0.00-4.24)  | 0.48<br>(0.19-1.14)  | 0.26<br>(0.03-2.25)  | 0.91<br>(0.21-4.02)  | 0.69<br>(0.16-2.79)  | 0.34<br>(0.09-1.34)  | 1.78<br>(0.44-6.99)  | 1.04<br>(0.19-5.71)  | 0.44<br>(0.01-27.06)  | 1.23<br>(0.57-2.73)  | 0.82<br>(0.09-7.77)  | 8.74<br>(0.23-100)  |  |
| 0.55<br>(0.20-1.49) | 0.77<br>(0.37-1.64)                                          | 0.96<br>(0.62-1.48)  | LIT+VPA              | 1.00<br>(0.64-1.60) | 3.91<br>(0.45-31.69)                         | 0.46<br>(0.01-16.35) | 1.58<br>(0.45-5.37)  | 0.88<br>(0.08-10.06) | 3.03<br>(0.83-11.11) | 2.29<br>(0.36-13.51) | 1.14<br>(0.22-5.61)  | 5.95<br>(1.02-32.33) | 3.46<br>(0.43-27.78) | 1.45<br>(0.02-100)    | 4.09<br>(1.01-16.96) | 2.72<br>(0.24-32.22) | 29.41<br>(0.65-100) |  |
| 0.55<br>(0.18-1.62) | 0.76<br>(0.33-1.77)                                          | 0.95<br>(0.54-1.66)  | 0.99<br>(0.56-1.77)  | ARP+LTG             | 0.99<br>(0.52-1.86)                          | 0.12<br>(0.00-5.05)  | 0.41<br>(0.07-2.24)  | 0.22<br>(0.02-3.13)  | 0.78<br>(0.10-6.29)  | 0.59<br>(0.08-4.41)  | 0.29<br>(0.04-2.17)  | 1.52<br>(0.47-5.13)  | 0.89<br>(0.09-8.70)  | 0.37<br>(0.00-31.25)  | 1.05<br>(0.20-5.84)  | 0.70<br>(0.05-10.42) | 7.46<br>(0.23-100)  |  |
| 0.46<br>(0.16-1.32) | 0.65<br>(0.30-1.41)                                          | 0.81<br>(0.49-1.39)  | 0.84<br>(0.51-1.39)  | 0.84<br>(0.48-1.44) | 0.85<br>(0.43-1.65)                          | LIT+IMP              | 3.41<br>(0.12-89.12) | 1.89<br>(0.04-94.44) | 6.54<br>(0.20-100)   | 4.95<br>(0.15-100)   | 2.45<br>(0.07-73.77) | 12.82<br>(0.37-100)  | 7.46<br>(0.18-100)   | 3.13<br>(0.10-84.61)  | 8.82<br>(0.31-100)   | 5.87<br>(0.11-100)   | 62.50<br>(0.43-100) |  |
| 0.47<br>(0.18-1.21) | 0.65<br>(0.34-1.26)                                          | 0.81<br>(0.62-1.03)  | 0.84<br>(0.64-1.13)  | 0.84<br>(0.58-1.21) | 0.85<br>(0.51-1.44)                          | 1.00<br>(0.66-1.53)  | LIT                  | 0.55<br>(0.07-4.62)  | 1.92<br>(0.60-6.37)  | 1.45<br>(0.29-5.32)  | 0.72<br>(0.25-2.04)  | 3.76<br>(1.13-12.66) | 2.19<br>(0.41-11.90) | 0.92<br>(0.02-54.05)  | 2.58<br>(1.23-5.59)  | 1.72<br>(0.20-15.05) | 18.52<br>(0.54-100) |  |
| 0.46<br>(0.16-1.36) | 0.65<br>(0.28-1.49)                                          | 0.80<br>(0.46-1.38)  | 0.84<br>(0.48-1.46)  | 0.84<br>(0.41-1.56) | 0.85<br>(0.41-1.70)                          | 1.00<br>(0.52-1.93)  | 0.99<br>(0.59-1.66)  | ARP                  | 3.46<br>(0.30-38.46) | 2.62<br>(0.23-29.41) | 1.30<br>(0.12-13.89) | 6.80<br>(0.66-66.67) | 3.95<br>(0.33-47.62) | 1.66<br>(0.02-100)    | 4.67<br>(0.64-34.26) | 3.11<br>(0.16-55.56) | 33.33<br>(0.61-100) |  |
| 0.46<br>(0.18-1.16) | 0.64<br>(0.32-1.29)                                          | 0.79<br>(0.56-1.13)  | 0.83<br>(0.58-1.23)  | 0.83<br>(0.53-1.19) | 0.84<br>(0.47-1.50)                          | 0.98<br>(0.61-1.62)  | 0.98<br>(0.77-1.28)  | 0.99<br>(0.56-1.78)  | VPA                  | 0.76<br>(0.12-4.29)  | 0.38<br>(0.08-1.79)  | 1.96<br>(0.36-10.76) | 1.14<br>(0.14-8.79)  | 0.48<br>(0.01-34.54)  | 1.35<br>(0.35-5.32)  | 0.90<br>(0.08-10.83) | 9.61<br>(0.23-100)  |  |
| 0.45<br>(0.17-1.24) | 0.63<br>(0.31-1.32)                                          | 0.79<br>(0.55-1.20)  | 0.82<br>(0.56-1.22)  | 0.82<br>(0.50-1.32) | 0.83<br>(0.46-1.49)                          | 0.98<br>(0.58-1.64)  | 0.97<br>(0.70-1.34)  | 0.98<br>(0.55-1.75)  | 0.99<br>(0.66-1.47)  | 0.99<br>(0.09-2.66)  | 0.50<br>(0.50-14.15) | 2.59<br>(0.50-14.15) | 1.51<br>(0.22-11.13) | 0.63<br>(0.01-42.48)  | 1.78<br>(0.54-6.41)  | 1.19<br>(0.09-14.18) | 12.70<br>(0.32-100) |  |
| 0.43<br>(0.15-1.22) | 0.60<br>(0.27-1.39)                                          | 0.74<br>(0.45-1.19)  | 0.77<br>(0.46-1.27)  | 0.77<br>(0.44-1.32) | 0.78<br>(0.40-1.51)                          | 0.92<br>(0.60-1.58)  | 0.91<br>(0.60-1.38)  | 0.92<br>(0.47-1.78)  | 0.93<br>(0.56-1.51)  | 0.94<br>(0.55-1.57)  | CBZ                  | 5.24<br>(1.07-26.32) | 3.05<br>(0.44-21.74) | 1.28<br>(0.02-83.33)  | 3.60<br>(1.04-12.94) | 2.40<br>(0.22-27.78) | 25.64<br>(0.63-100) |  |
| 0.38<br>(0.14-1.01) | 0.53<br>(0.27-1.06)                                          | 0.66<br>(0.48-0.89)  | 0.69<br>(0.50-0.96)  | 0.69<br>(0.44-1.04) | 0.68<br>(0.43-1.10)                          | 0.81<br>(0.51-1.31)  | 0.81<br>(0.64-1.02)  | 0.82<br>(0.47-1.41)  | 0.83<br>(0.59-1.19)  | 0.89<br>(0.56-1.44)  | 0.89<br>(0.56-1.44)  | LTG                  | 0.58<br>(0.08-4.20)  | 0.24<br>(0.00-17.78)  | 0.69<br>(0.21-3.35)  | 0.46<br>(0.04-5.18)  | 4.90<br>(0.19-100)  |  |
| 0.34<br>(0.12-0.99) | 0.48<br>(0.22-1.05)                                          | 0.60<br>(0.37-0.94)  | 0.63<br>(0.39-1.01)  | 0.62<br>(0.36-1.08) | 0.63<br>(0.33-1.20)                          | 0.74<br>(0.42-1.34)  | 0.74<br>(0.48-1.31)  | 0.75<br>(0.39-1.41)  | 0.76<br>(0.46-1.22)  | 0.81<br>(0.47-1.25)  | 0.76<br>(0.45-1.47)  | 0.91<br>(0.58-1.43)  | PAL                  | 0.42<br>(0.01-31.12)  | 1.18<br>(0.26-4.57)  | 0.79<br>(0.06-10.78) | 8.41<br>(0.19-100)  |  |
| 0.30<br>(0.11-0.84) | 0.43<br>(0.20-0.89)                                          | 0.53<br>(0.34-0.80)  | 0.55<br>(0.36-0.86)  | 0.55<br>(0.32-0.90) | 0.56<br>(0.30-1.03)                          | 0.66<br>(0.43-1.00)  | 0.65<br>(0.46-0.92)  | 0.66<br>(0.36-1.21)  | 0.67<br>(0.43-1.01)  | 0.67<br>(0.42-1.06)  | 0.67<br>(0.42-1.23)  | 0.80<br>(0.54-1.20)  | 0.88<br>(0.51-1.50)  | MP                    | 2.82<br>(0.05-100)   | 1.88<br>(0.02-100)   | 20.00<br>(0.09-100) |  |
| 0.29<br>(0.11-0.76) | 0.40<br>(0.21-0.79)                                          | 0.50<br>(0.39-0.63)  | 0.52<br>(0.40-0.68)  | 0.52<br>(0.35-0.77) | 0.53<br>(0.32-0.88)                          | 0.62<br>(0.40-0.96)  | 0.62<br>(0.53-0.72)  | 0.62<br>(0.38-1.03)  | 0.63<br>(0.47-0.83)  | 0.64<br>(0.48-0.85)  | 0.68<br>(0.44-1.06)  | 0.76<br>(0.62-0.94)  | 0.84<br>(0.56-1.24)  | 0.95<br>(0.66-1.35)   | PLB                  | 0.67<br>(0.08-5.62)  | 7.14<br>(0.21-100)  |  |
| -                   | -                                                            | -                    | -                    | -                   | -                                            | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                     | -                    | RX                   | 10.75<br>(0.19-100) |  |
| -                   | -                                                            | -                    | -                    | -                   | -                                            | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                    | -                     | -                    | -                    | VPA+LTG             |  |

**Figure 3: Efficacy (any mood episode relapse or recurrence) and tolerability (discontinuation due to adverse event) according to the network meta-analysis**  
Comparisons between treatments should be read from left to right and the estimates are in the cell in common between the column-defining treatment and the row-defining treatment. Drugs are reported in order of efficacy (any mood episode relapse or recurrence) ranking estimated by SUCRA (surface under the cumulative ranking curve). For tolerability, a risk ratio (RR) lower than 1.00 favours the row-defining treatment. For any mood episode relapse or recurrence, a RR lower than 1.00 favours the column-defining treatment. Significant results are in bold. The RR of drug B over drug A can be obtained by calculating the inverse of the RR of drug A over drug B. ARP=aripiprazole. CBZ=carbamazepine. CrI=credible interval. FLX=fluoxetine. IMP=imipramine. LIT=lithium. LTG=lamotrigine. OLZ=olanzapine. QTP=quetiapine. OXC=oxcarbazepine. PAL=paliperidone. PLB=placebo. RisLAI= risperidone longacting injection. VPA=valproate.



**Figure 2: Network of all eligible comparisons for the network meta-analysis**  
Each node (circle) corresponds to a drug included in the analysis, with the size proportional to the number of participants randomly assigned to that drug. Each line represents direct comparisons between drugs, with the width of the lines proportional to the number of trials comparing each pair of treatments. The treatment nodes in the closed-loop network are purple, whereas single-standing nodes and their connections are light blue. All the monotherapies, except for ARP, PAL, and CBZ, were compared with at least two other treatment nodes (ie, were in the closed-loop network). 12 (50%) of 24 comparisons for the primary efficacy outcome and seven (29%) of 24 comparisons for tolerability were done in more than one trial. ARP=aripiprazole. CBZ=carbamazepine. FLX=fluoxetine. IMP=imipramine. LIT=lithium. LTG=lamotrigine. OLZ=olanzapine. OXC=oxcarbazepine. PAL=paliperidone. PLB=placebo. QTP=quetiapine. RisLAI=risperidone longacting injection. VPA=valproate.

# Litio en prevención de recaídas depresión unipolar

# Litio en la prevención de recaídas en depresión unipolar

Abou-Saleh et al. *Int J Bipolar Disord* (2017) 5:11  
DOI 10.1186/s40345-017-0080-x

International Journal of  
Bipolar Disorders

## REVIEW

## Open Access



### Lithium in the episode and suicide prophylaxis and in augmenting strategies in patients with unipolar depression

Mohammed T. Abou-Saleh<sup>1\*</sup>, Bruno Müller-Oerlinghausen<sup>2</sup> and Alec J. Coppen<sup>3</sup>

#### Abstract

**Background:** Depressive disorders are a leading cause of the global burden of disease and are associated with high recurrent often continuing morbidity and high excess mortality by suicide and cardiovascular disease. Whilst there are established, effective and cost-effective treatments for depression, their long-term management is often neglected; there is continuing controversy over the case of need for long-term treatment including lifelong treatment and safety issues.

**Objective and methods:** In this narrative review, we critically examine the evidence for the effectiveness and safety of lithium salts in the long-term management of unipolar depression. We refer to existing recent international guidelines as well as the scientific literature selectively and against the background of our longstanding experience with patients suffering from unipolar depression who are often under treated or inappropriately treated.

**Results and discussion:** According to many studies mostly dating back to the 1970/1980s, lithium is efficacious in the prophylaxis of unipolar depression particularly depression with melancholia and delusional depression and showing a clearly episodic course. Also the efficacy of lithium maintenance treatment following recovery by ECT has been clearly shown. Moreover, convincing evidence exists that lithium has added value and benefit for its unique anti-suicidal effects as well as reducing mortality by other causes. The anti-suicidal effect has been convincingly demonstrated in bipolar as well as in unipolar patients. Nevertheless its use in the management of patients with unipolar depression has not been properly recognized by a majority of textbooks and guidelines. Whilst it has been well considered as an effective treatment for depression that has not responded to antidepressants as an adjunct treatment, also called augmentation, it has been much less recommended for the prevention of recurrent episodes of unipolar depression. One of the reasons for this neglect is the blurring of the diagnosis 'unipolar depression' by modern diagnostic tools. Lithium will hardly work in a patient with 'unipolar depression spectrum disease'.

**Conclusions:** We conclude that lithium is an effective prophylactic treatment for carefully selected patients with unipolar depression and is safe when prescribed in recommended doses/plasma lithium levels and with regular, careful monitoring. We propose that lithium prophylaxis can be indicated in patients with unipolar depression and that the occurrence of 2 episodes of depression within 5 years is a practical criterion for starting lithium prophylaxis particularly in severe depression with psychotic features and high suicidal risk. Furthermore, an indication might be considered especially in unipolar patients in whom a bipolar background is suspected. In some cases, lithium prophylaxis may be recommended after a single episode of depression that is severe with high suicidal risk and continued life-long.

**Keywords:** Lithium, Long-term prophylaxis, Unipolar depression, ECT, Antisuicidal effect, Augmentation

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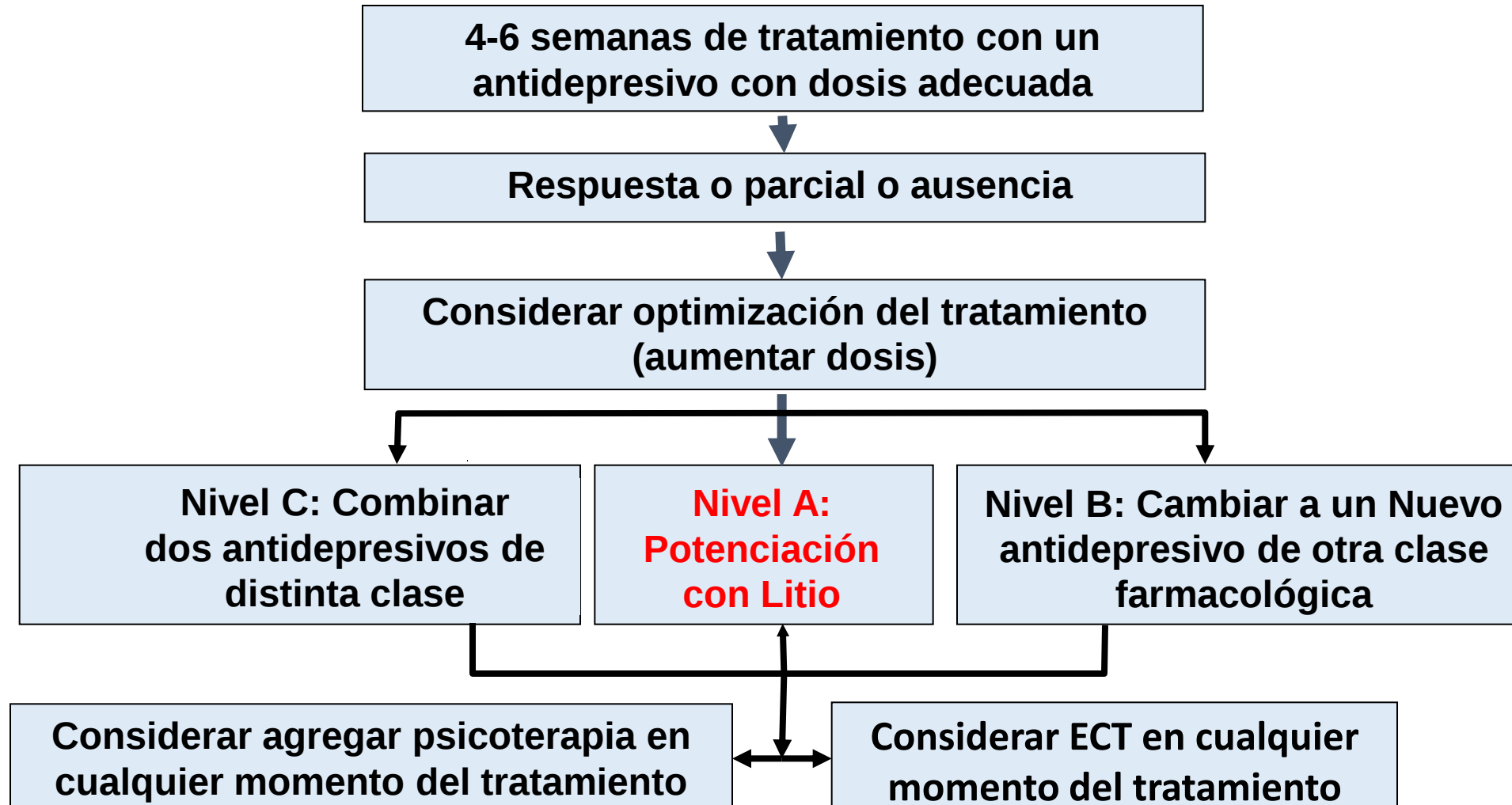
# Litio en potenciación de depresión 1980-90

De Montigny y otros

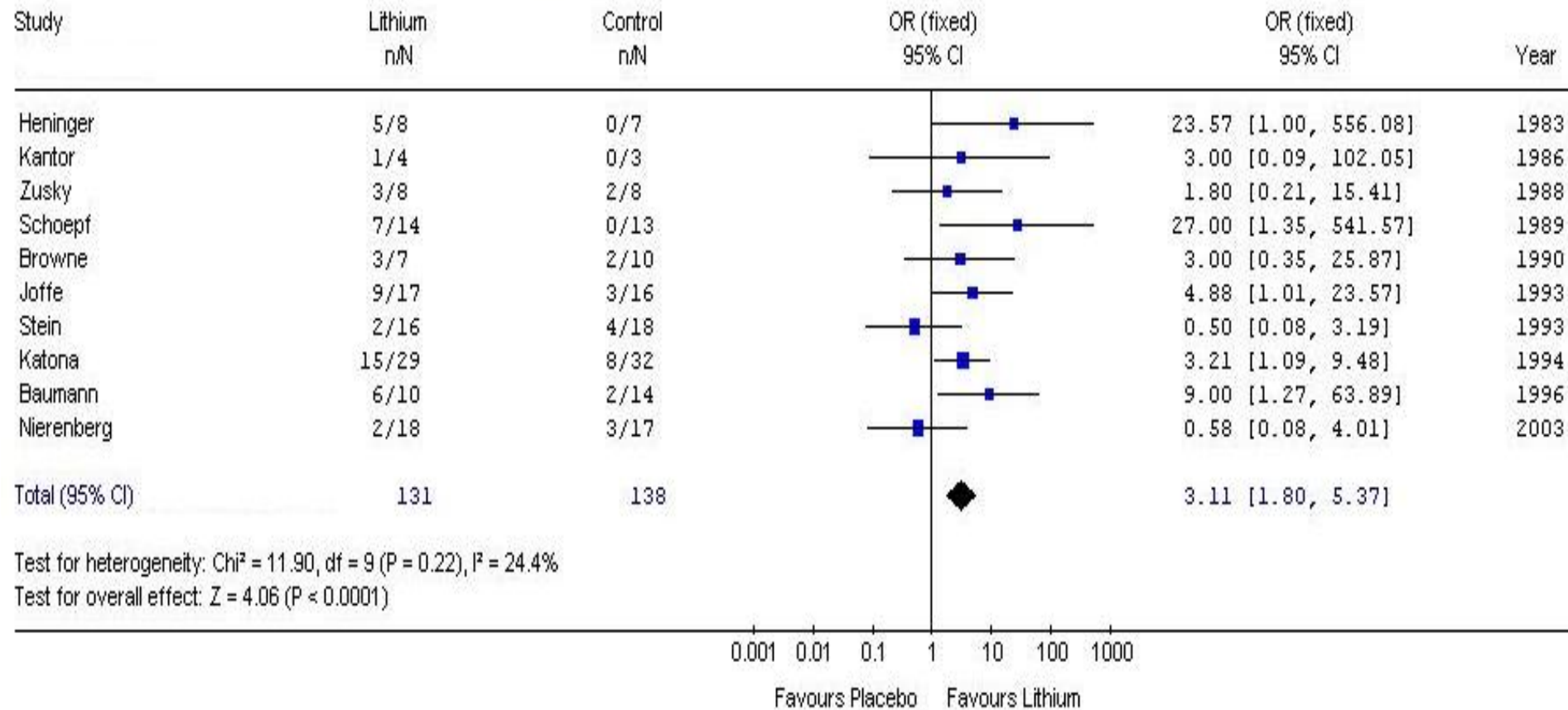
# Treinta años de potenciación con litio

- Gran cantidad de data apoya esta indicación
- 10 estudios doble-ciego controlado con placebo
- 8 estudios controlados con comparador
- 13 estudios abiertos prospectivos
- Numerosas series clínicas y reporte casos clínicos

# Estrategia de Tratamiento para la Depresión: Guía WFSBP



# Metaanálisis: Potenciación con Litio en Depresión Refractaria Refractory (10 RCTs)



# Estrategia de Potenciación para la Depresión Refractaria – Guía WFSBP Update 2013

## Nivel-Evidencia

- **Litio** **A**
- Triyodotironina (T3) **B**
- Antipsicóticos Atípicos **A/B/C**
- (Quetiapina, Aripiprazole)
- L-Thyroxine **C**
- Anticonvulsantes **C**
- Estrogenos **C**
- Agonistas de Dopamina **C**
- Psicoestimulantes **C**

World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) Guidelines for biological treatment of unipolar depressive disorders, Part 1: Acute and continuation treatment of major depressive disorder (2013) *Bauer, Whybrow, Angst, Möller World J Biol Psychiatr*

# Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial of the Use of Lithium to Augment Antidepressant Medication in Continuation Treatment of Unipolar Major Depression

Michael Bauer, Ph.D., M.D.

Tom Bschor, M.D.

Dieter Kunz, M.D.

Anne Berghöfer, M.D.

Andreas Ströhle, M.D.

Bruno Müller-Oerlinghausen,  
M.D.

**Objective:** Use of lithium to augment antidepressant medication has been shown to be beneficial in the acute treatment of depression. The authors examined the efficacy of lithium augmentation in the continuation treatment of unipolar major depressive disorder.

**Method:** Thirty patients with a refractory major depressive episode who had responded to acute lithium augmentation during an open 6-week study participated in a randomized, parallel-group, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of lithium augmentation during continuation treatment. After a 2–4-week stabilization period following remission, patients were randomly assigned to receive either lithium or placebo for a 4-month period. Antidepressant medication was continued throughout the study.

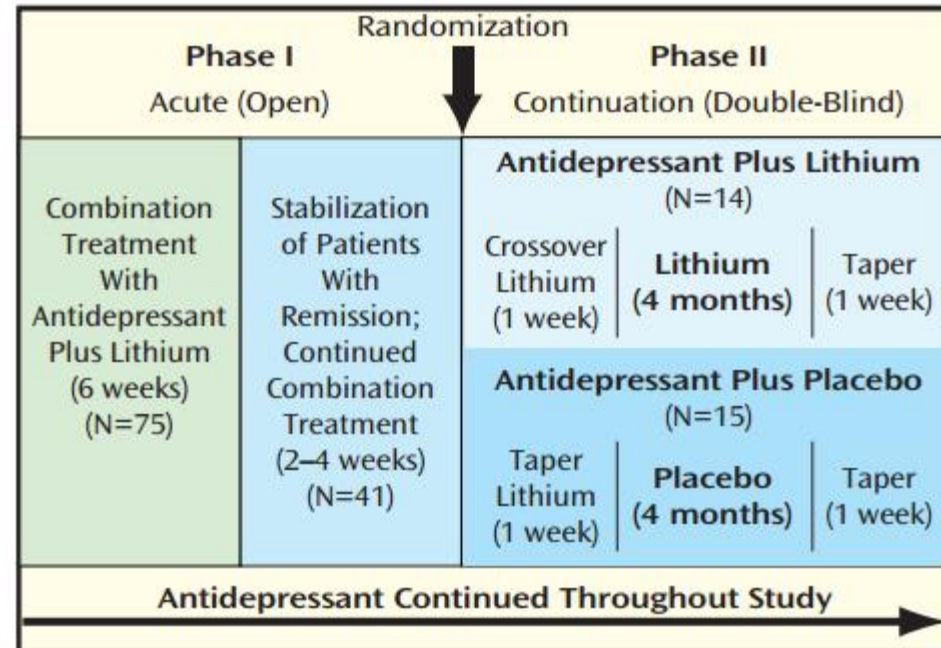
**Results:** Relapses (including one suicide) occurred in seven (47%) of the 15 patients who received placebo in addition to antidepressants. None (0%) of the 14 patients who received lithium augmentation with antidepressants suffered a relapse during the double-blind phase of the study. Five of the seven relapsing patients in the placebo group developed a depressive episode, and the other two experienced a manic episode.

**Conclusions:** Lithium augmentation in the continuation phase of treatment of unipolar major depressive disorder effectively protects patients against a relapse. Patients who respond to lithium augmentation should be maintained on lithium augmentation for a minimum of 6 months or even longer.

*(Am J Psychiatry 2000; 157:1429–1435)*

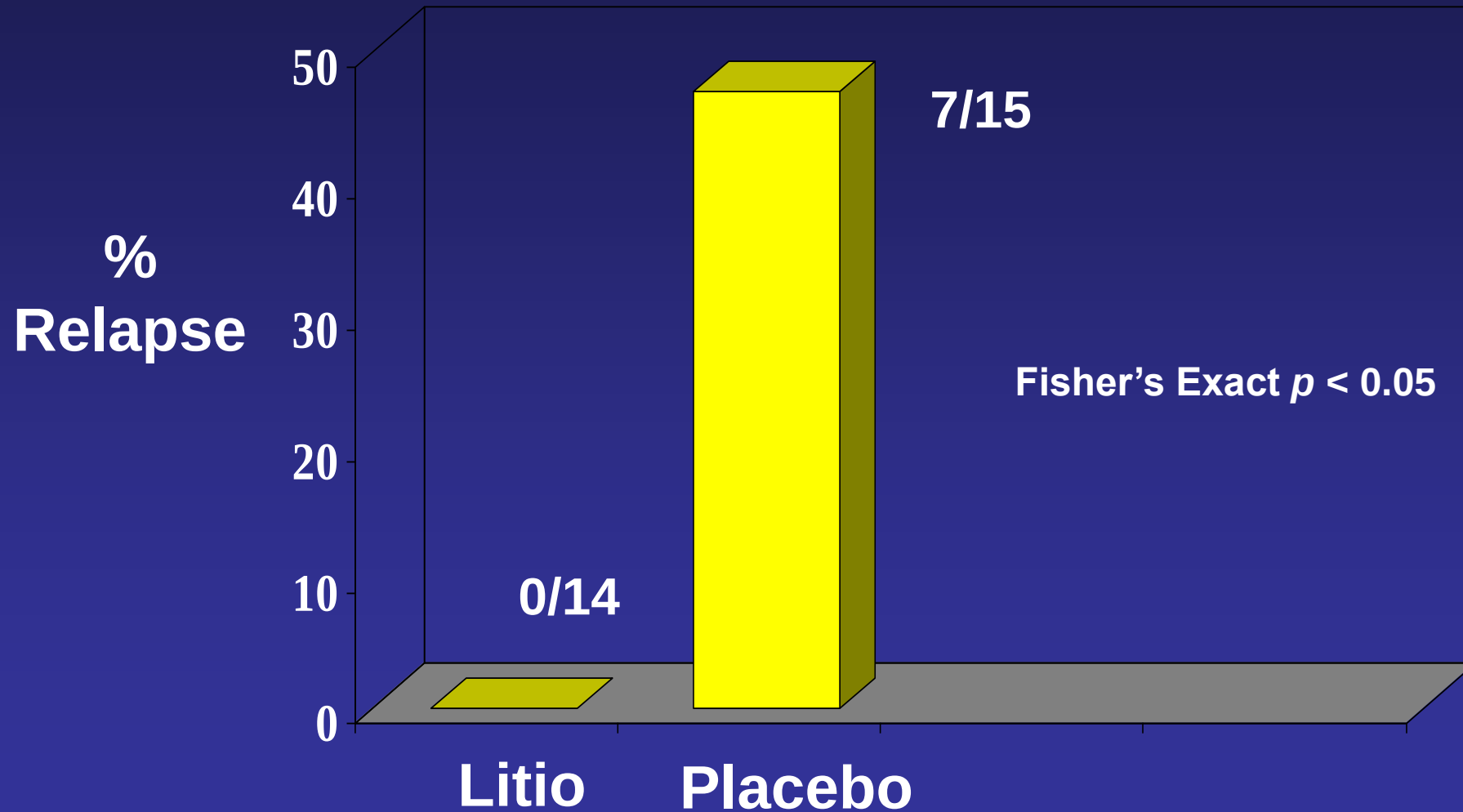
## LITHIUM WITH ANTIDEPRESSANTS

**FIGURE 1. Phases of a Study on the Effectiveness of Lithium Augmentation of Antidepressant Medication in the Continuation Treatment of Depressed Patients<sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup> Mean period of treatment with antidepressants before phase I addition of lithium was 46.1 days (SD=29.7). Eleven of the 41 patients who experienced remission declined to participate in the continuation phase, and one additional patient dropped out before the end of the study.

# Continuación de Potenciación con Litio Previene Recaídas

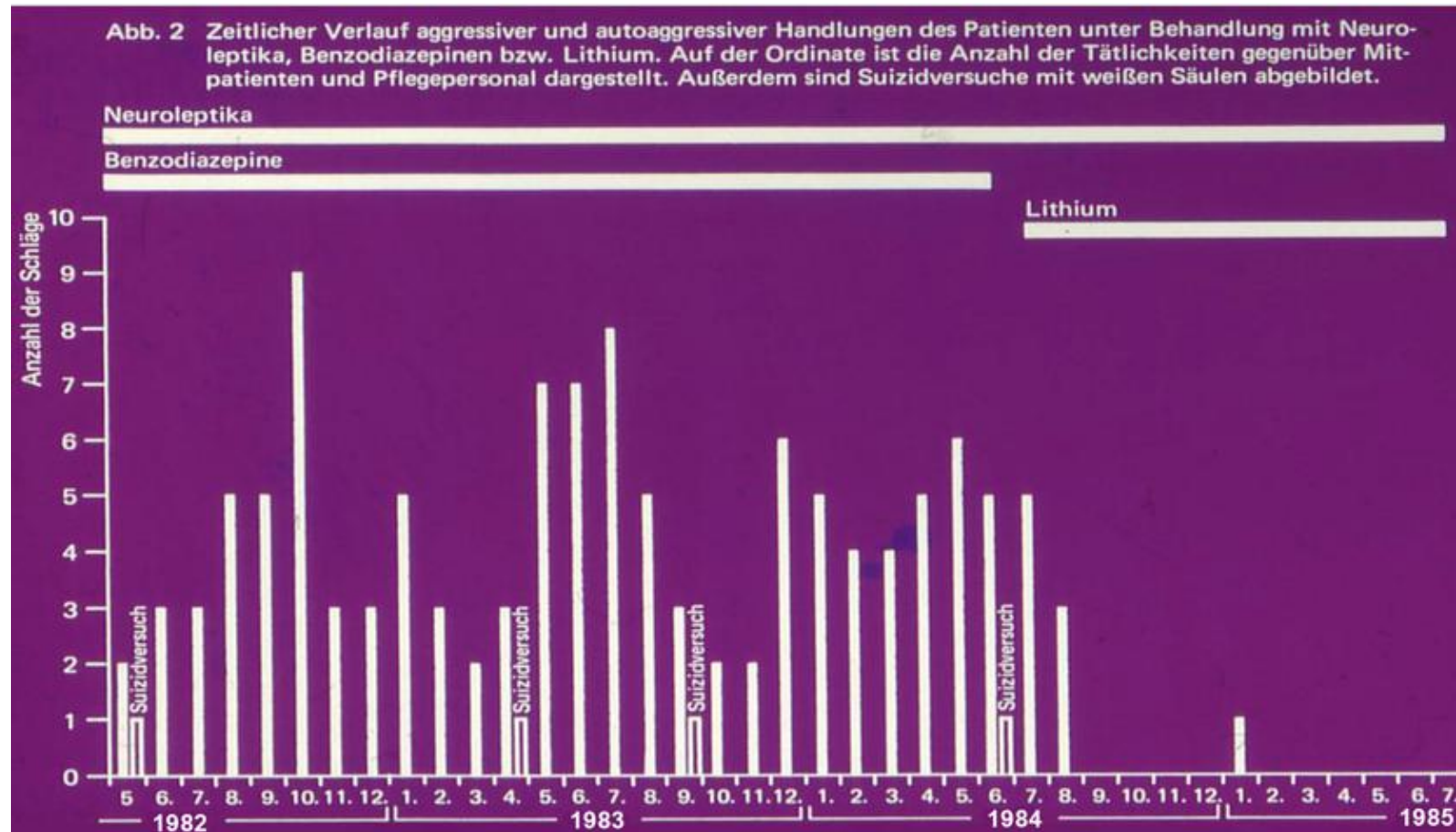


Efecto antisuicida del Litio



- Prof.Dr. Bruno Müller-Oerlinghausen

# Disminución de auto y heteroagresión en paciente con Esquizofrenia tratado con litio



# Efecto Antisuicida del Litio

- Müller-Oerlinghausen ( IGSLI) 1992, 2001: 827 pacientes con trastornos del ánimo tratados con litio. Dramático efecto antisuicida – mortalidad no difirió comparada con población sana.
- Confirmación del efecto antisuicida:  
Baldessarini y Tondo 1997,  
Bocchetta et al 1998,  
Lewitzka et al 2015
- Litio posee un poderoso efecto antisuicida más allá del efecto estabilizador . Presente aún en no respondedores a litio(Müller-Oerlinghausen 2001) y en pacientes depresivos sin trastorno bipolar (Lauterbach et al 2008)

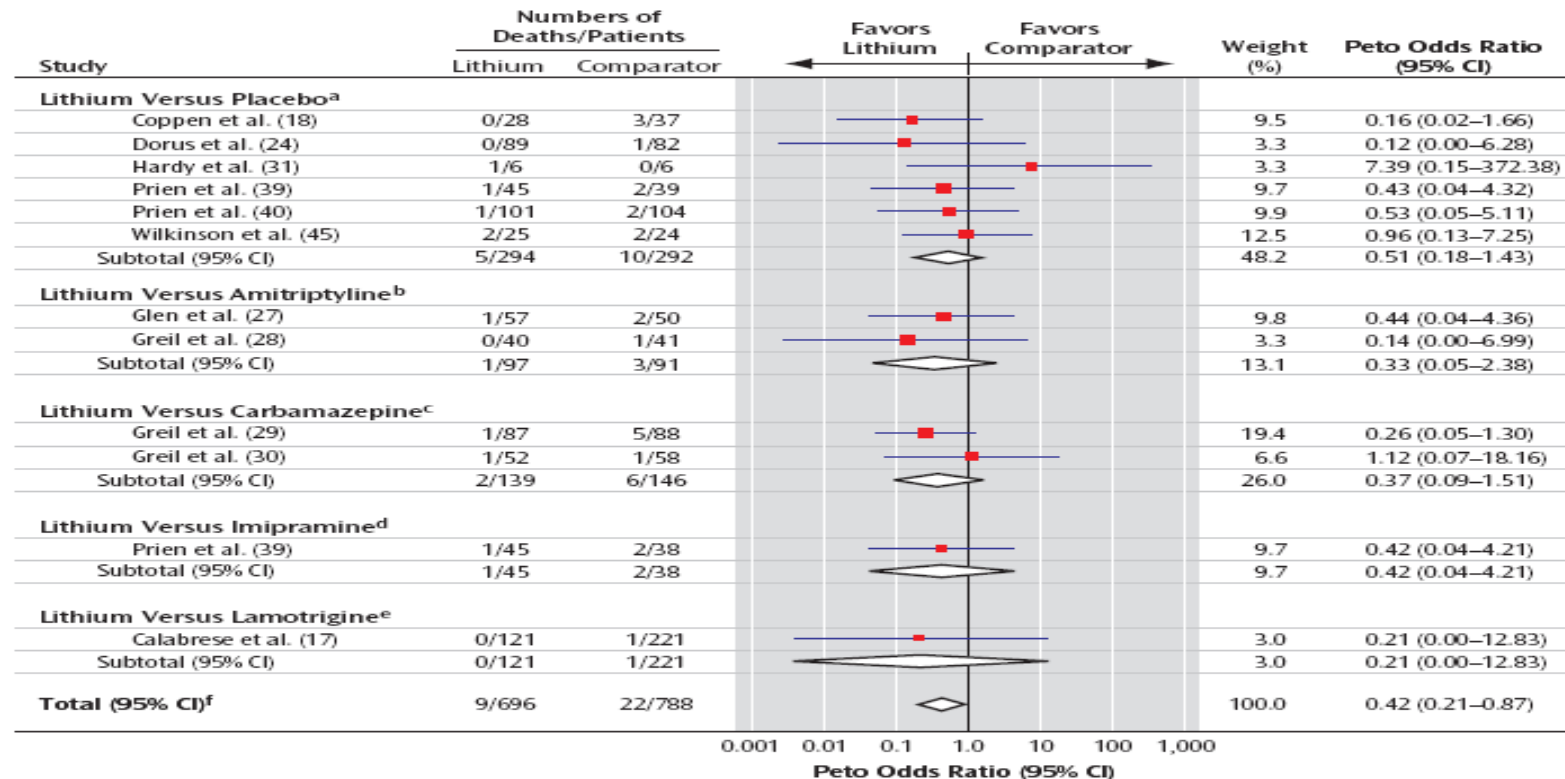
# **Suicidio e Intento de Suicidio en Pacientes Bipolares Randomizados a Litio o Carbamazepina (n=378)**

**(Estudio Prospectivo-Randomizado 2.5 años)**

|                      | <b>Suicidio</b> | <b>Intento<br/>suicidio</b> | <b>Total<br/>conducta<br/>suicida</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Litio</b>         | <b>0</b>        | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                              |
| <b>Carbamazepina</b> | <b>5</b>        | <b>4</b>                    | <b>9</b>                              |

# Litio en Prevención de Suicidio Revisión Sistemática de Estudios Randomizados

FIGURE 4. Forest Plot Showing Meta-Analysis of Deaths From All Causes in Randomized Trials Comparing Lithium With Placebo or Active Comparators



<sup>a</sup> Test for heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=3.60$ ,  $df=5$ ,  $p=0.61$ ; test for overall effect:  $z=1.28$ ,  $p=0.20$ .

<sup>b</sup> Test for heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=0.25$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.62$ ; test for overall effect:  $z=1.10$ ,  $p=0.27$ .

<sup>c</sup> Test for heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=0.80$ ,  $df=1$ ,  $p=0.37$ ; test for overall effect:  $z=1.38$ ,  $p=0.17$ .

<sup>d</sup> Test for overall effect:  $z=0.74$ ,  $p=0.46$ .

<sup>e</sup> Test for overall effect:  $z=0.74$ ,  $p=0.46$ .

<sup>f</sup> Test for heterogeneity:  $\chi^2=4.98$ ,  $df=11$ ,  $p=0.93$ ; test for overall effect:  $z=2.35$ ,  $p=0.02$ .

# Disminución del Riesgo e Intentos de Suicidio: Meta-Análisis

Bipolar Disorders 2006; 8: 625-639

Copyright © Baldessarini et al. 2006  
BIPOLAR DISORDERS

Baldessarini et al.

## Review Article

## Decreased risk of suicides and attempts during long-term lithium treatment: a meta-analytic review

Baldessarini RJ, Tondo L, Davis P, Pompili M, Goodwin FK, Hennen J.  
Decreased risk of suicides and attempts during long-term lithium treatment: a meta-analytic review.  
Bipolar Disord 2006; 8: 625-639. © Blackwell Munksgaard, 2006

**Objective:** To update and extend comparisons of rates of suicides and suicide attempts among patients with major affective disorders with versus without long-term lithium treatment.

**Methods:** Broad searching yielded 45 studies providing rates of suicidal acts during lithium treatment, including 34 also providing rates without lithium treatment. We scored study quality, tested between-study variation, and examined suicidal rates on versus off lithium by meta-analytic methods to determine risk ratios (RRs) and 95% confidence intervals (CI).

**Results:** In 31 studies suitable for meta-analysis, involving a total of 35,229 person-years of risk-exposure, the overall risk of suicides and attempts was five times less among lithium-treated subjects than among those not treated with lithium (RR = 4.91, 95% CI 3.82-6.31,  $p < 0.0001$ ). Similar effects were found with other meta-analytic methods, as well as for completed versus attempted suicide, and for bipolar versus major mood disorder patients. Studies with higher quality ratings, including randomized, controlled trials, involved shorter exposures with somewhat lesser lithium superiority. Omitting one very large study or those involving lithium-discontinuation had little effect on the results. The incidence-ratio of attempted-suicides increased 2.5 times with lithium-treatment, indicating *reduced* lethality of suicidal acts. There was no indication of bias toward reporting positive findings, nor were outcomes significantly influenced by publication-year or study size.

**Conclusions:** Risks of completed and attempted suicide were consistently lower, by approximately 80%, during treatment of bipolar and other major affective disorder patients with lithium for an average of 18 months. These benefits were sustained in randomized as well as open clinical trials.

Ross J Baldessarini<sup>AB</sup>, Leonardo Tondo<sup>AA, B</sup>, Paula Davis<sup>B</sup>, Maurizio Pompili<sup>B, C</sup>, Frederick K Goodwin<sup>B</sup> and John Hennen<sup>AB</sup>

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Key words: bipolar disorder – lithium – major affective disorders – meta-analysis – suicide

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Long-term lithium treatment has been associated with reduced risk of suicide and suicide attempts in patients with bipolar disorder (BPD) or other

major affective disorders (1-8). In a previous meta-analysis that included only 22 studies reporting on completed suicides, we found an 80%

RR similar or superior to comparative search with computerized probes and meta-analyses (9-11). In a previous meta-analysis that included only 22 studies reporting on completed suicides, we found an 80% RR similar or superior to comparative search with computerized probes and meta-analyses (9-11). In a previous meta-analysis that included only 22 studies reporting on completed suicides, we found an 80% RR similar or superior to comparative search with computerized probes and meta-analyses (9-11).

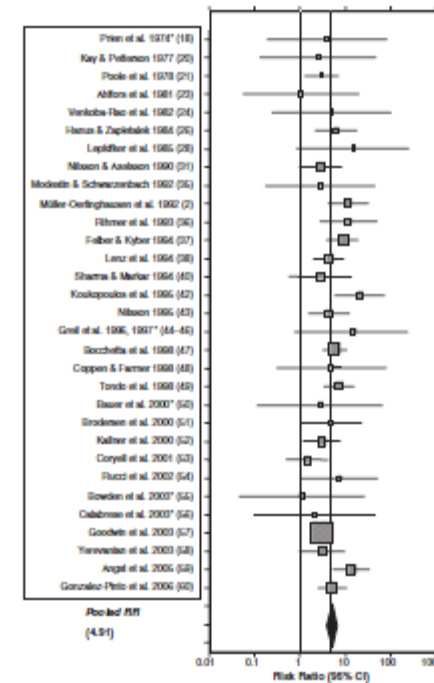


Fig. 1. Forest plot Risk Ratios (RR) as shaded squares proportional to study weight and their 95% confidence intervals (CI) based on random-effects meta-analysis of suicidal risk (rates of suicides and/or attempts per 100 person-years (%/year)) in 31 studies, with two arms (with and without lithium treatment) and no-zero suicidal risk in at least one arm (see Table 1) (2, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 31, 35-38, 40, 42-60). The computed pooled risk ratio (RR) (thick diamond) = 4.91 (95% CI 3.82-6.31,  $z = 12.5$ ,  $p < 0.0001$ ). \*Randomized, controlled trials.

Tratamiento coadyuvante con litio en la prevención de conducta suicida: estudio randomizado, controlado con placebo, durante 1 año

- Estudio controlado, multicéntrico, prospectivo, Alemania
- Pacientes con intento de suicidio reciente (3 meses)
- Trastorno del espectro afectivo (n = 167)
- Litio vs. placebo, add-on a tratamiento usual

## Tratamiento coadyuvante con litio en la prevención de conducta suicida: estudio randomizado, controlado con placebo, durante 1 año

- Sin diferencia en el número de intentos suicidio (7 en cada grupo)
- Análisis post-hoc:
- Un número significativamente mayor cometió suicidio en el grupo placebo (3 versus 0 en el con litio;  $p=0,049$ )

# Cómo aumentar seguridad en uso de litio

- Investigar cómo prevenir el daño renal
- Programas de educación continua cómo usar litio de manera adecuada y seleccionar el paciente respondedor (características típicas vs atípicas)
- Cómo prevenir y tratar la intoxicación con litio
- Pedir calcemia y hormona paratiroides

# Litio: áreas de investigación a futuro

- Mejor estabilizador disponible **pero**; existe una marcada subutilización (mayoría de los países): sólo 10-40% de los pacientes que tienen indicación lo reciben
- Desarrollo de formulaciones distintas que la oral (E.V o I.M.) y medición de litemia por el paciente (chip)
- Investigación del efecto antisuicida ¿agudo?
- Efecto neuroprotector: ¿a quienes beneficia? ¿Es el efecto independiente de la prevención de recaídas?
- Aumentar seguridad: efecto en riñón:
  - prevención daño renal e insuficiencia, detección precoz de candidatos de daño renal

# Recomendaciones monitoreo en tratamiento prolongado con litio ISBD

## Base

- TSH, Calcemia, Creatinemia

## Litemia

- Luego de 5 días de iniciado el litio tratamiento,
- Dos mediciones consecutivas dentro de rango con la misma dosis
- Luego de cambio de dosis
- Cada 3-6 meses

## Longitudinal

- Creatinemia, BUN cada 3-6 meses durante tto.
- Clearance de creatinina cada 3-9 meses
- Tasa de filtración glomerular cada 3-9 meses
- T3, T4, TSH cada 6-12 meses
- Calcemia, HPT(paratiroides) anual
- P/A, Hemograma, Electrolitos cada 6 meses
- Peso, ECG, Glicemia anual

Muchas gracias por su  
atención

# Meeting IGSLI, Aalborg Dinamarca 2015

