



**UW PACC**

Psychiatry and Addictions Case Conference

UW Medicine | Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

# PRECONCEPTION COUNSELING FOR PATIENTS ON PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS

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# GENERAL DISCLOSURES

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# GENERAL DISCLOSURES

UW PACC is also supported by Coordinated Care  
of Washington

# SPEAKER DISCLOSURES

Medical Director, PAL for Moms

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# PAL FOR MOMS

877-725-4666 (PAL4MOM)



- Partnership Access Line (PAL) for Moms
- Perinatal psychiatry telephone consultation
- Free for any healthcare provider in Washington State
- Mon-Fri 9-5
- Funded by State of Washington Health Care Authority (HCA)

# PLANNER DISCLOSURES

The following series planners have no relevant conflicts of interest to disclose:

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# OBJECTIVES

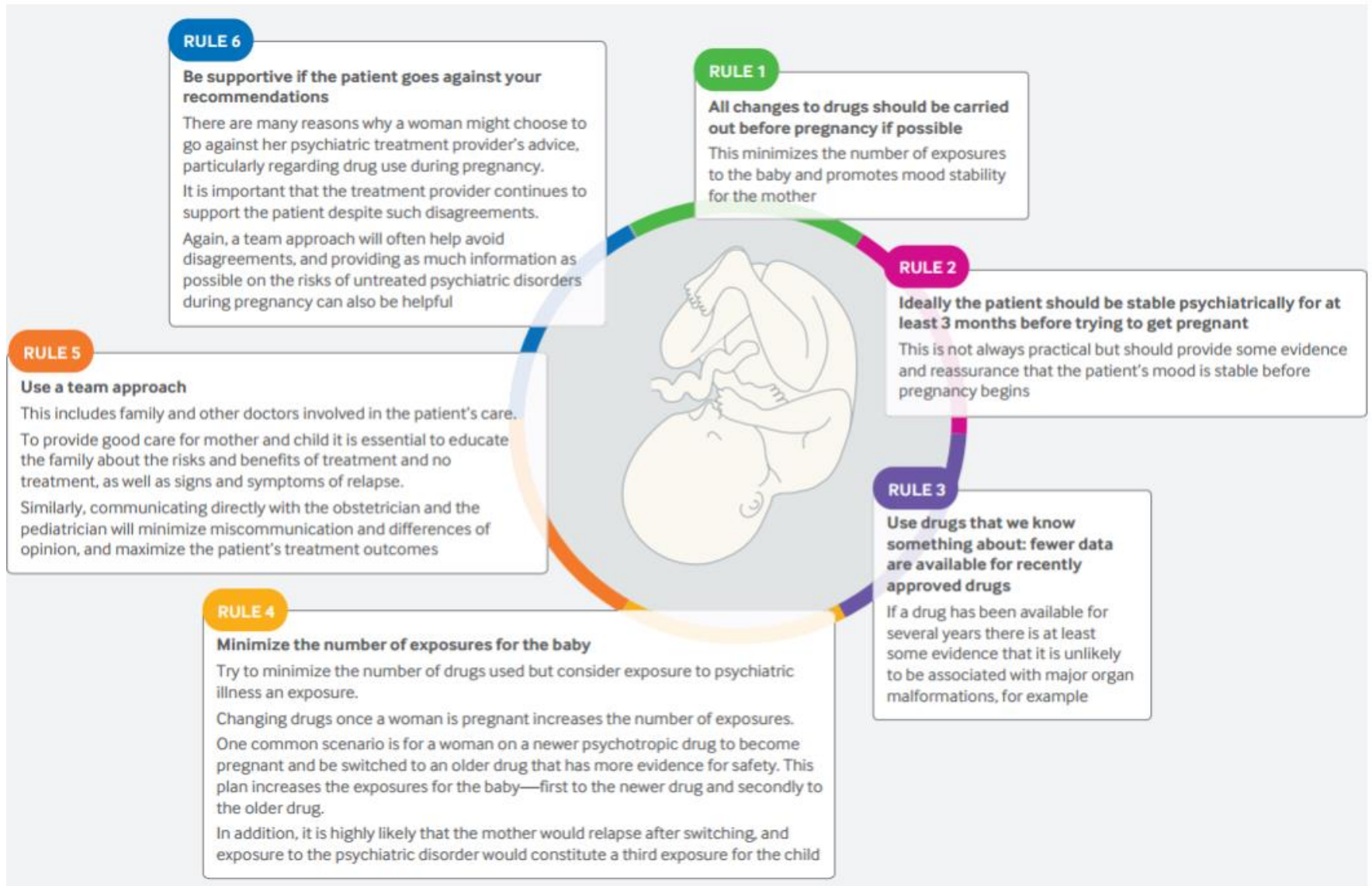
1. Discuss general approach to risk-risk assessment involved in preconception counseling for patients on psychiatric medications
2. Apply this general approach to two specific case examples

# PRECONCEPTION COUNSELING: THINGS TO CONSIDER

- **50% of pregnancies are unplanned**
  - Consider medication effects in pregnancy and lactation in treating any woman of childbearing potential
- **Minimize exposures**
  - Medications, illness episodes/relapse, alcohol/drugs/nicotine
- **Safety of current medication(s) vs. starting a new medication**



# PRESCRIBING IN PREGNANCY



# FDA CATEGORIES – A THING OF THE PAST

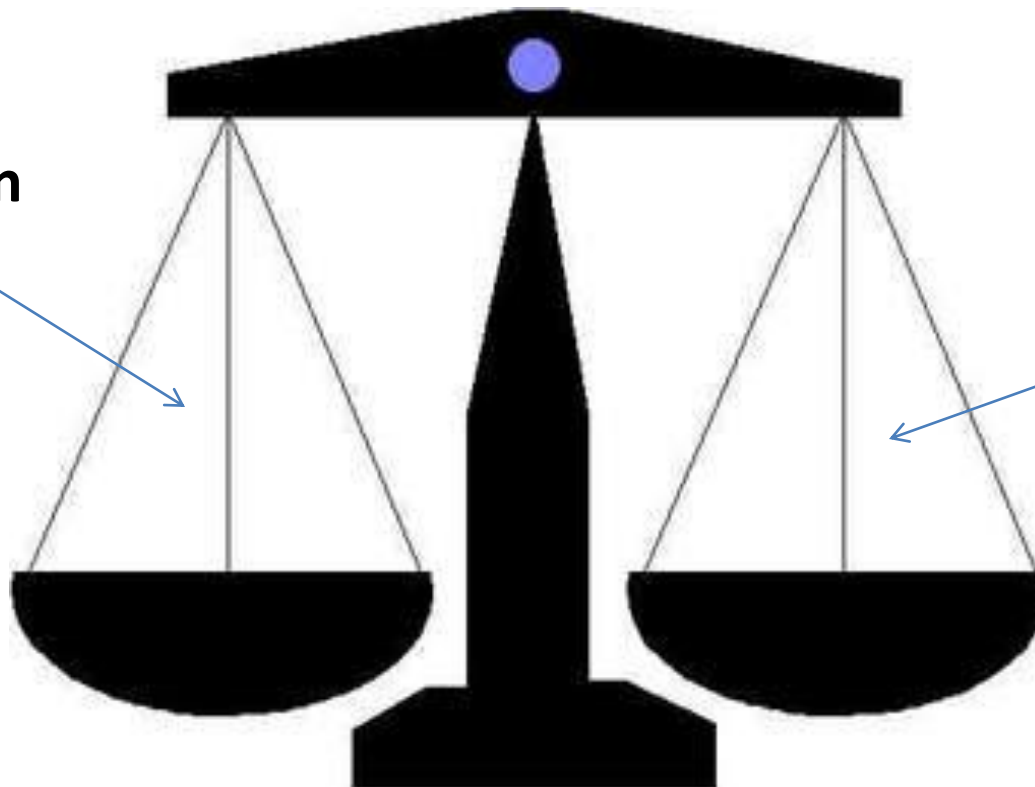


# TYPES OF RISK

- Malformations
  - Base rate 3%
- Adverse pregnancy outcomes
  - e.g. miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth, pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, postpartum hemorrhage
- Neonatal symptoms
- Long-term neurobehavioral effects

# RISK-RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks of medication



Risks of untreated psychiatric disorder



**\*Alternatives?**

# INFORMATION ABOUT MEDICATIONS IN PREGNANCY IS A CHANGING LANDSCAPE...



**HOW TO KEEP UP?**

# RESOURCES

Reprotox: [www.reprotox.org](http://www.reprotox.org)

LactMed: <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/newtoxnet/lactmed.htm>

Infant Risk Center (website and app): <https://www.infantrisk.com>

MGH: [www.womensmentalhealth.org](http://www.womensmentalhealth.org)

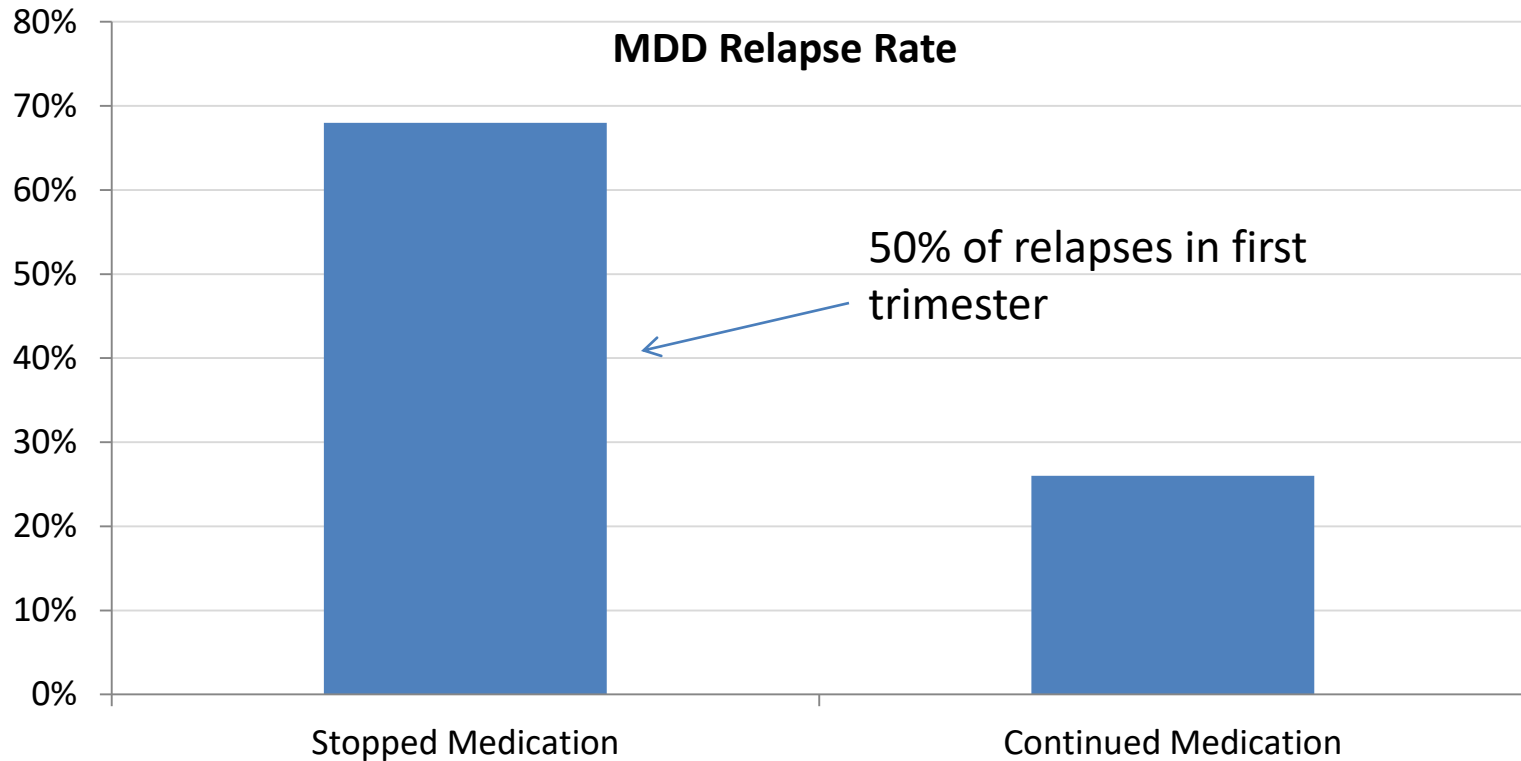
Perinatal Support Washington: <http://perinataalsupport.org/>

Parent Child Assistance Program: <https://depts.washington.edu/pcapuw/>

# CASE #1

- 27 yo woman wishes to conceive for the first time
- 4 past major depressive episodes
- 2 psychiatric hospitalizations
- Now doing well, PHQ-9 = 4
- No history of mania/psychosis
- On duloxetine (Cymbalta) 60 mg daily
- Multiple past antidepressant trials
- Duloxetine is helpful; therapy has helped at times
- She wants to know what to do about her depression treatment during pregnancy.

# WHAT IF SHE STOPS HER ANTIDEPRESSANT?



Cohen et al., JAMA, 2006



# RISKS OF UNTREATED DEPRESSION IN PREGNANCY AND POSTPARTUM



- Impaired functioning
- Suicide, hospitalization
- Poor prenatal care
- More substance use
- Preterm birth
- Postpartum depression
- Problems with attachment
- Behavioral problems and psychiatric disorders in children

# WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DULOXETINE?

- Limited information
- 668 infants with first trimester exposure, 2.4% rate of malformations (Lassen, 2016)
- ? Gestational hypertension
- Neonatal adaptation syndrome (like SSRIs)
- Low transmission in breast milk (10 reported cases)



# SERTRALINE

- No consistent evidence for increased risk of malformations
- SSRI least often associated with persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN)
  - Meta-analysis, 11 studies, 156,978 exposed women
  - PPHN 2.9/1000 with SSRI exposure vs. 1.8/1000 without
  - Lowest risk with sertraline
    - Masarwa et al., AJOG, 2019
- Safest in breastfeeding
- Effective for anxiety as well as depression

# ALTERNATIVES?

- Evidence supports:
  - Psychotherapy
    - CBT
    - IPT
  - Bright light therapy
  - ECT
  - TMS
  - Exercise
  - Yoga



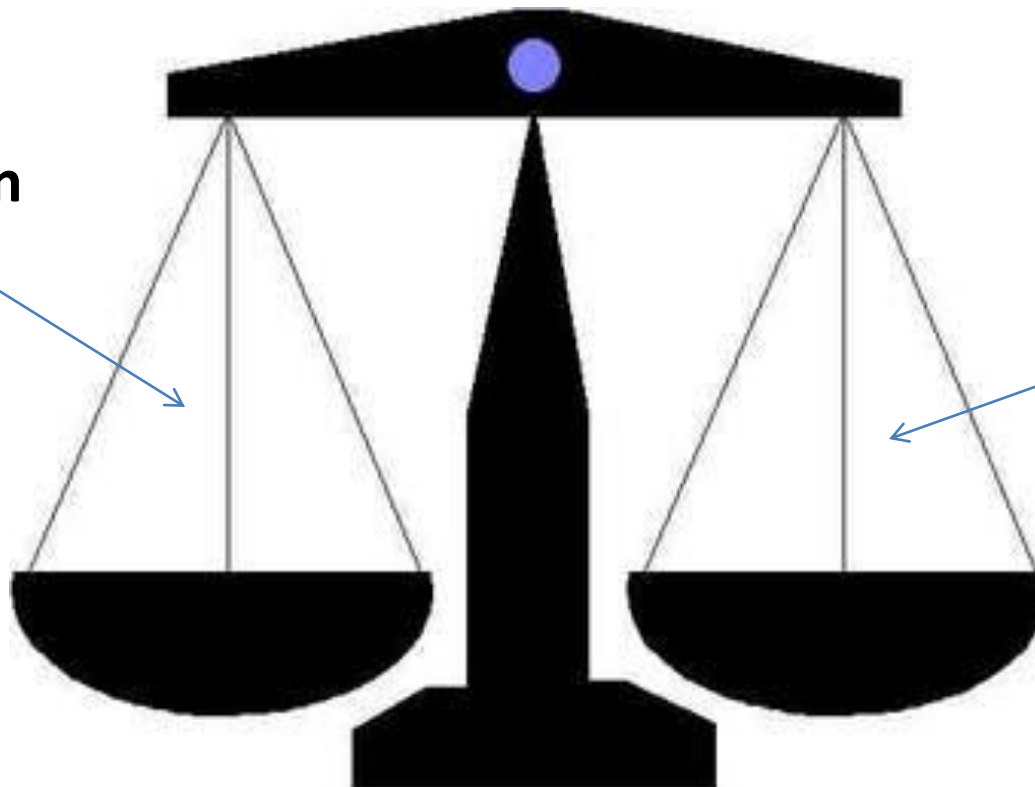
<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/486740672217827217/>

# CASE #2

- 35 yo woman with bipolar I disorder
- H/o multiple hospitalizations for mania
- Now stable on VPA 750 bid and quetiapine 150 mg qhs
- Desires pregnancy and not using birth control

# RISK-RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks of medication

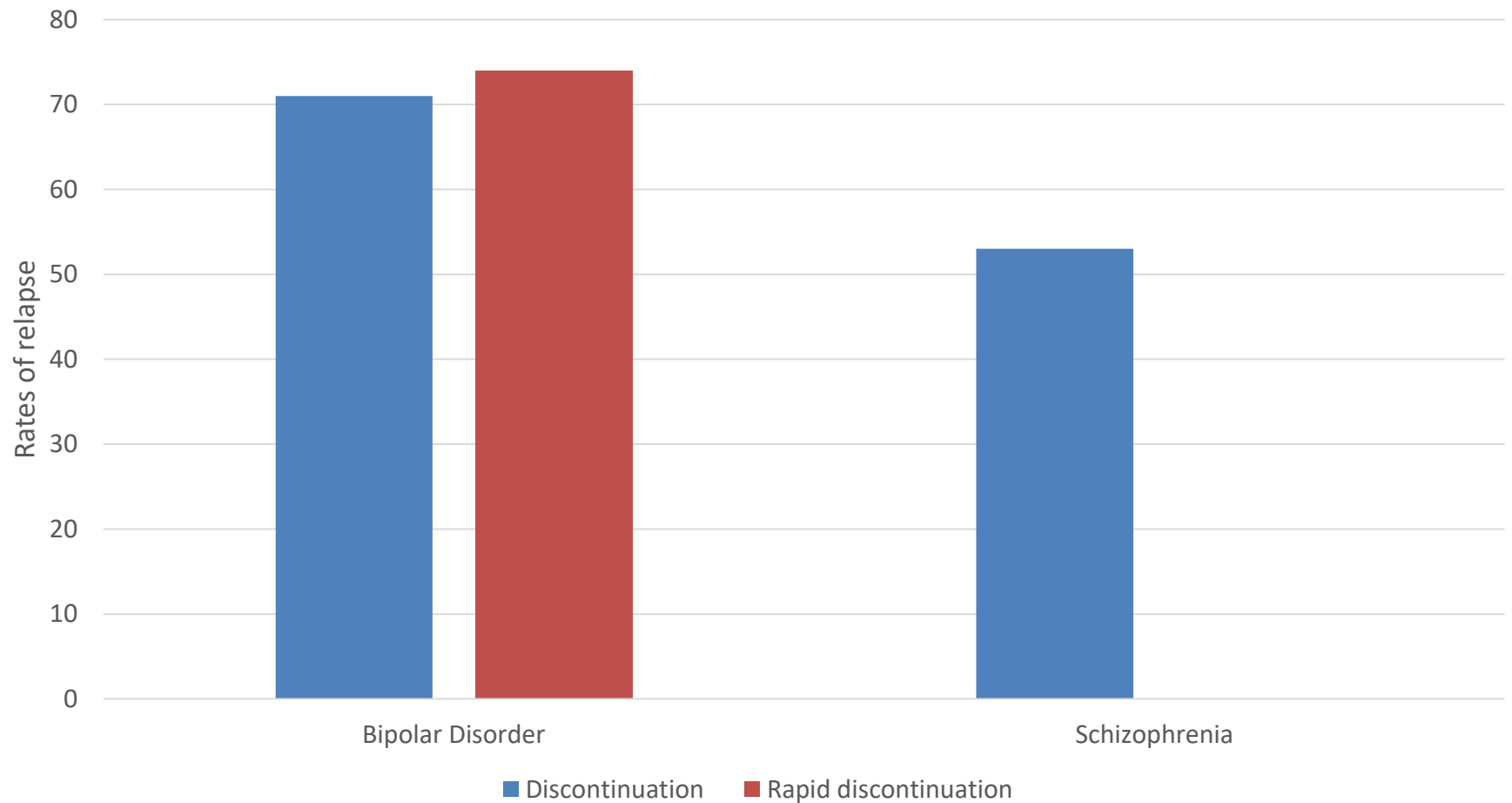


Risks of untreated psychiatric disorder



**\*Alternatives?**

# RISKS OF RELAPSE WITH MEDICATION DISCONTINUATION



# RISKS OF UNTREATED DISORDER

- Risks to mother
  - Symptoms, impaired functioning
  - Hospitalization, suicide
- Risks to pregnancy
  - Poor prenatal care
  - Increased substance use
  - Preterm birth
- Risks postpartum/to child
  - Postpartum mood episode, psychosis
  - Problems with bonding, attachment
  - Behavioral problems in child



# MALFORMATION RATES FOR AEDS IN PREGNANCY (EURAP, JULY 2011)

Valproate	< 700 mg/d	5.6%
	700- $\leq$ 1500	10.4%
	$\geq$ 1500 mg/d	24.2%
Carbamazepine	< 400 mg/d	3.4%
	400- $\leq$ 1000	5.3%
	$\geq$ 1000 mg/d	8.7%
Lamotrigine	< 300 mg/d	2.0%
	$\geq$ 300 mg/d	4.5%



# VALPROATE AND IQ AT AGE 6

- 305 mothers, 311 children
- In utero valproate exposure
- Dose-dependent decreases in IQ (8-11 points) versus other anticonvulsants
- 8-fold increase in need for educational intervention
- Verbal > non-verbal cognitive effects
- IQ higher with periconception folate

» Meador et al.,  
Lancet Neurol, 2013



# LITHIUM

- ? Ebstein's anomaly
  - Baseline 1 in 20,000; Lithium 1 in 1000
- Increase in cardiac malformations with first trimester exposure
  - RR of 1.65 (95% CI, 1.02-2.68); highest with > 900 mg/day (RR = 3.22)
- Higher rate of malformations overall
  - 7.2% versus 4.3% in mood disorder reference group
- No increase in adverse pregnancy or delivery outcomes
- Relative infant dose in breastfeeding about 50%

# LAMOTRIGINE IN PREGNANCY

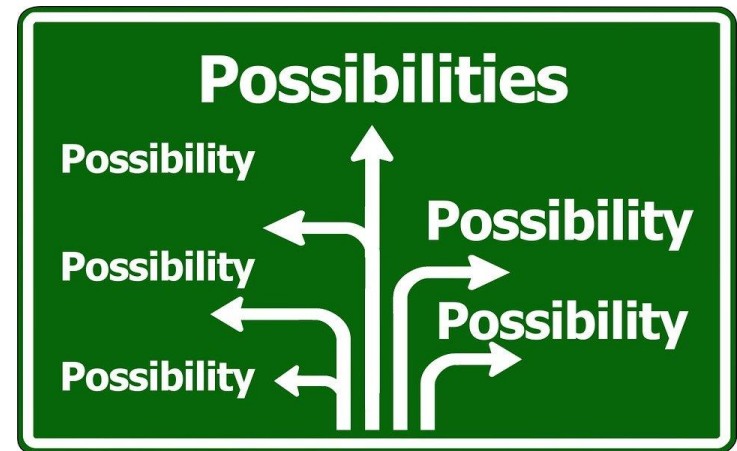
- Prospective study from teratology service (median dose 200 mg/d): No increase in malformations (no oral clefts)
- No increase in rates of miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth, SGA babies
- May need dose increase during pregnancy
- Check pre-pregnancy euthymic level; monthly monitoring
- With breastfeeding, RID 6-50% maternal dose
- No neurodevelopmental disorders in children exposed to in utero lamotrigine (up to 6 years)

# ANTIPSYCHOTICS

- 23 studies, 14,382 pregnant women exposed to a SGA.
- Congenital malformations:
  - aripiprazole, olanzapine, quetiapine
  - ± risperidone, paliperidone
  - ? ziprasidone, clozapine, amisulpride, asenapine, lurasidone, sertindole
- Pregnancy outcomes: No class effect
- Neonatal adaptation / EPS (FDA warning)
- Gestational diabetes ± (olanzapine)
- Low infant doses with breastfeeding
- Child neurodevelopment?

# ALTERNATIVES

- Reduce/stop Depakote; add folate
- Atypical antipsychotic
  - Increased dose of quetiapine
  - Olanzapine, aripiprazole
- Change mood stabilizer
  - Lamotrigine? Lithium?
- Therapy
- Routine, optimize sleep, monitor for warning symptoms



# QUESTIONS?



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