



**UW PACC**

Psychiatry and Addictions Case Conference

UW Medicine | Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

# TREATING BIPOLAR DISORDER IN PRIMARY CARE SETTINGS - SHOULD I START A MOOD STABILIZER?

JOHN S. KERN, M.D.

# SPEAKER DISCLOSURES

- ✓ No conflicts of interest.

# OBJECTIVES

- At the conclusion of this session, attendees:
  - Will understand need for high-quality care of bipolar disorder in the primary care setting.
  - Will be able to describe collaborative care models for mental disorders in the primary care setting.
  - Will be oriented to the task of creating a workflow for the treatment of bipolar disorder in the primary care setting.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE ISSUES WITH BIPOLAR DISORDER

- Incidence high.
- Likelihood of referral to specialty care low.
- Overall morbidity high.
- What would ideal program look like?
- How to implement in various settings?

# INCIDENCE HIGH

- 4.3% of general primary care patients and up to 10% of primary care patients with a psychiatric complaint. [Cerimele et al]

# REFERRAL AWAY UNLIKELY



# REFERRAL AWAY UNLIKELY

- MHIP 26% referred
- Regional MHC – 20% referred, about 20% of these successful – and this to our own CMHC!

# ILLNESS SEVERE & COSTLY

- MHIP: bipolar pts high symptom severity.
- Total mean $\pm$ SD costs for patients in the bipolar disorder group (\$3,416 $\pm$ \$6,862) were significantly higher than those in any of the comparison groups (Simon et al 1998)
- Medically complicated: higher prevalence of Diabetes, Hepatitis C, Lower back pain and pulmonary disease in VA bipolar cohort.
- Refractory: some collaborative programs cannot show improvement in depression or mania ratings.



# IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRES A PLAN

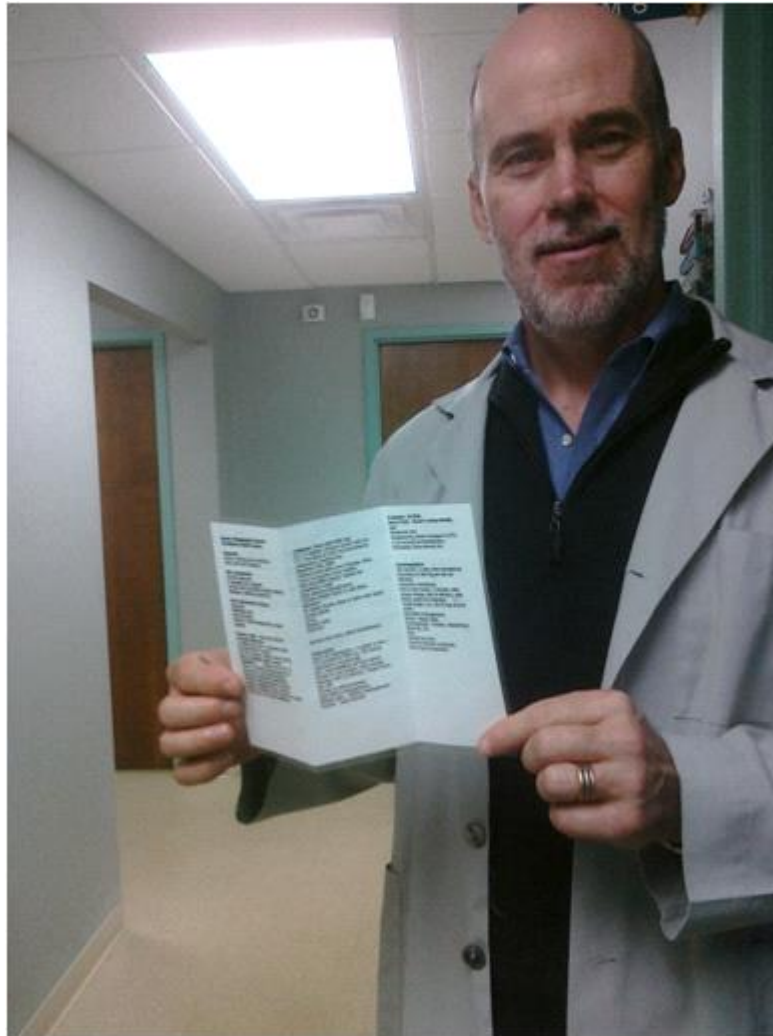


*"They have no military, sire—no one's ever made it past their receptionist."*

# ONE EXAMPLE – REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH

- IMPACT-style collaborative care program – 4 primary care sites. **Invited in by the FQHC partner.**
- Bipolar patients unable or unwilling to be seen in CMHC.
- Use of roadmap for PCP's.
- Double-entry registry.
- 920 patients diagnosed with Bipolar I, Bipolar II or Mood Disorder NOS.
- Dx PHQ-9 / MDQ/ CIDI plus clinical interview, psychiatric consultation.
- All med management through consultant psychiatrist.
- Approximately 20% referral **attempted** to CMHC.
- Used as alternative site for CMHC overflow.

# BIPOLAR ROADMAP



## **Bipolar Management Protocol NorthShore Health Centers**

### **Diagnosis**

History, including prior treatment.  
MDQ, then CIDI if positive.

### **BHC consultation**

Confirm diagnosis.

Is specialty care needed?

Consult with psychiatrist before making  
diagnosis, initiating treatment.

### **Give Information Packet:**

Diagnosis

Medication Info

Mood Charting

Rhythm / self-management / sleep  
hygiene

**Choose meds** - see med protocol

### **Arrange aftercare**

2 weeks with new or changed meds

No more than 3 months

Call for no show. Follow mood charts.

### **How to decide which mood**

**stabilizer:** Lithium first line. If  
manic - Lamictal not appropriate. If  
psychotic sx, will need atypical.  
Seroquel, Lamictal if depressed.  
Monitor drug interactions & other  
medical conditions [e.g., kidney  
disease & lithium.] Not unusual to need  
more than one mood stabilizer.

**Lithium:** Start 600-900 mg

In 1-2 weeks: Lithium Level—aim for  
0.7, increase at 300 mg increments

Laboratory monitoring:

Baseline TSH, BMP

Lithium level with each change, then  
every 6 months when stable.

TSH and BMP yearly—watch for  
creatinine creep

Side effects management

Tremor (lower dose or add Beta-  
Blocker)

GI upset (lower dose or take with food)

Loose stools

Acne

Weight gain

Polyuria

Serious but rare: renal insufficiency

### **Valproate**

Start 20 mg/kg/day = weight in lbs x  
10 rounded to 500 mg. HS dosing

Laboratory monitoring:

cbc, cmp baseline, at one month

Levels at one month, with dosage  
change, lack of efficacy. Target level:  
50-120

Titrate to effectiveness.

Side effect management:

Weight gain - dietary management

Tremor - beta-blocker

Gi distress - hs dose

Risk of PCOS - avoid in young women,  
rash

Serious but rare:

Hepatotoxicity [minor increase in LFT's  
is not unusual], encephalopathy,  
Pancreatitis, bone marrow d/o

### **Carbamazepine:**

200 mg BID x 2 wks, then increase by  
increments of 200 mg per day as  
tolerated.

Laboratory monitoring:

level at one month, 3 months, with  
dosage change, lack of efficacy, side  
effects, watch for induction  
Target levels 4-12, cbc & cmp at one  
month

Side effect management:

Ataxia - reduce dose

Hyponatremia - monitor, discontinue  
below Na 125.

Rash

Serious but rare:

Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Bone marrow disorders

**Lamictal**

**Titrate per instructions: 25 mg daily x 2 wks, then 50 mg daily x 2 wk, then 100 mg daily. If on Depakote, 25 mg every other day x 2 wks, then 50 mg.**  
May not need more than 25-50 mg.

If on Tegretol, 50 mg daily x 2 wks, then 100 mg daily

Labs - not recommended

Side effect management:

Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Rash - warn patient to call about any rash, and come in for a look

**Trileptal**

**Start 300 mg BID, titrate to tolerability and effectiveness, probably 300 mg per 1-2 wks.**

**Laboratory monitoring:**

**CMP, CBC baseline, at one month, 6 months. No levels**

**Side effect management:**

**Sedation - hs dose**

**Ataxia - reduce dose**

**Hyponatremia - monitor Na, stop below 125. Rash**

**Serious but rare: Stevens-Johnson syndrome, Bone marrow disorders**

**Atypical Antipsychotics**

**Zyprexa - Seroquel - Risperdal - Invega - Abilify – Latuda - Geodon**

**Risk of significant weight gain higher to the left, tardive dyskinesia higher to right.**

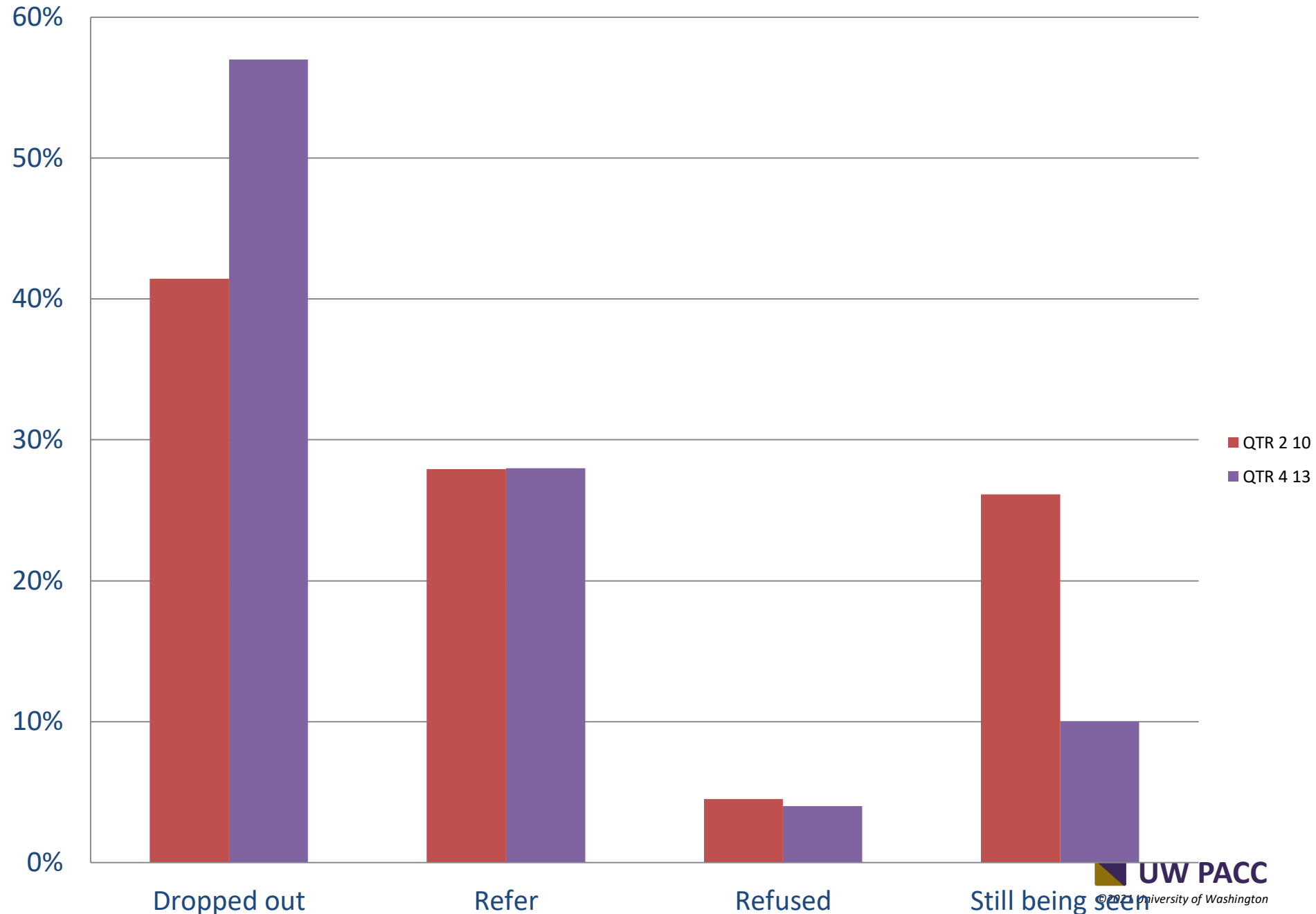
Side effect mgmt: Risk of wt gain, DM, dyslipidemia, tardive dyskinesia.

Monitor for abnormal movements every 6 months.

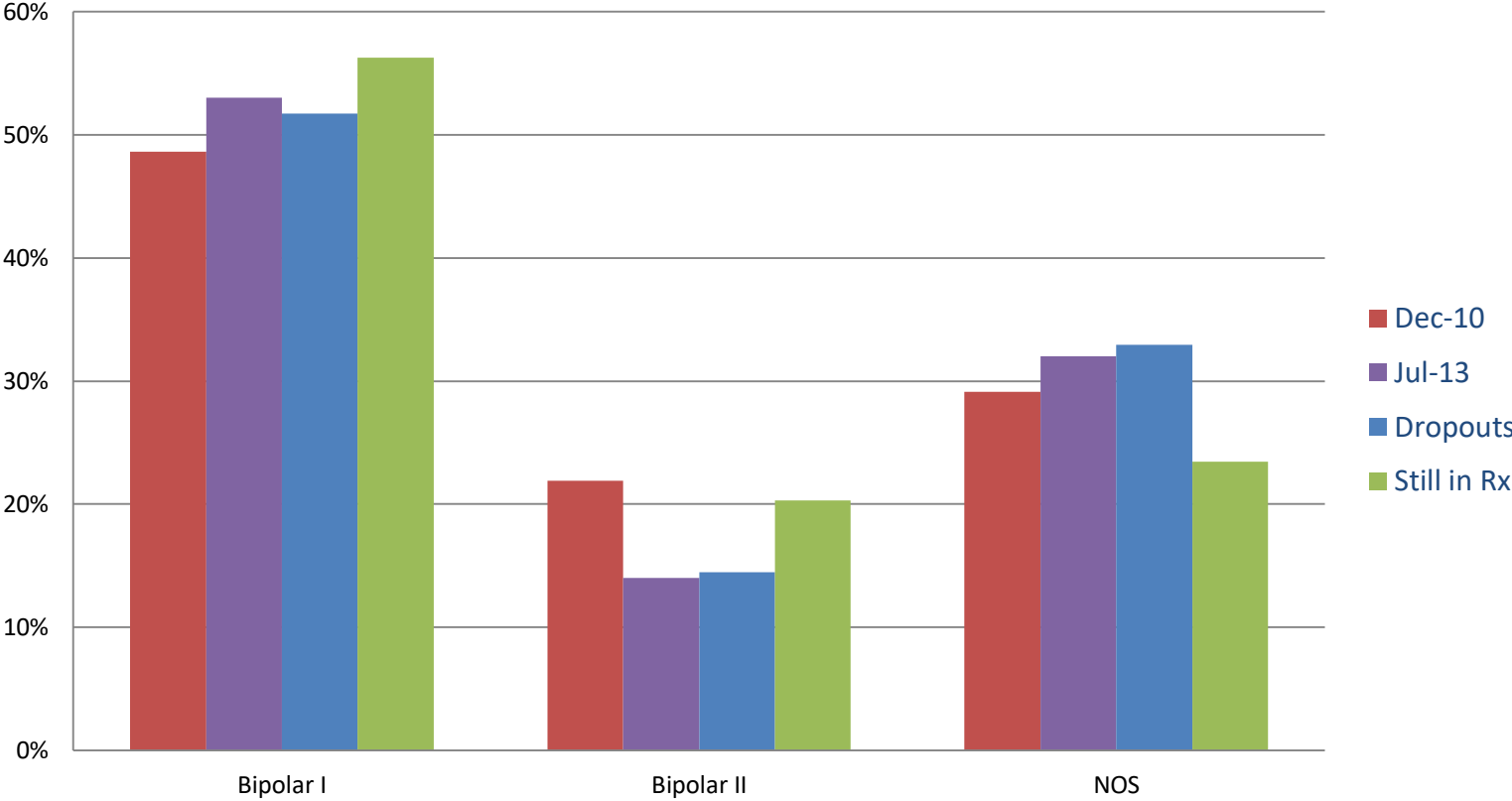
Initial Dosing: Zyprexa 10, Seroquel 200, Latuda 40, Risperdal 2, Invega 3, Abilify 5, Geodon 80 [do not give less than 80 mg Geodon]

Atypical Laboratory monitoring:	Baseline	4 wks	8 wks	12 wks	Annually
Personal/ Family hx	x			x	
Weight [BMI]	x	x	x		
Waist circumference	x		x	x	
Blood Pressure		x	x		
Fasting plasma glucose	x		x	x	
Fasting lipid profile	x		x	x	

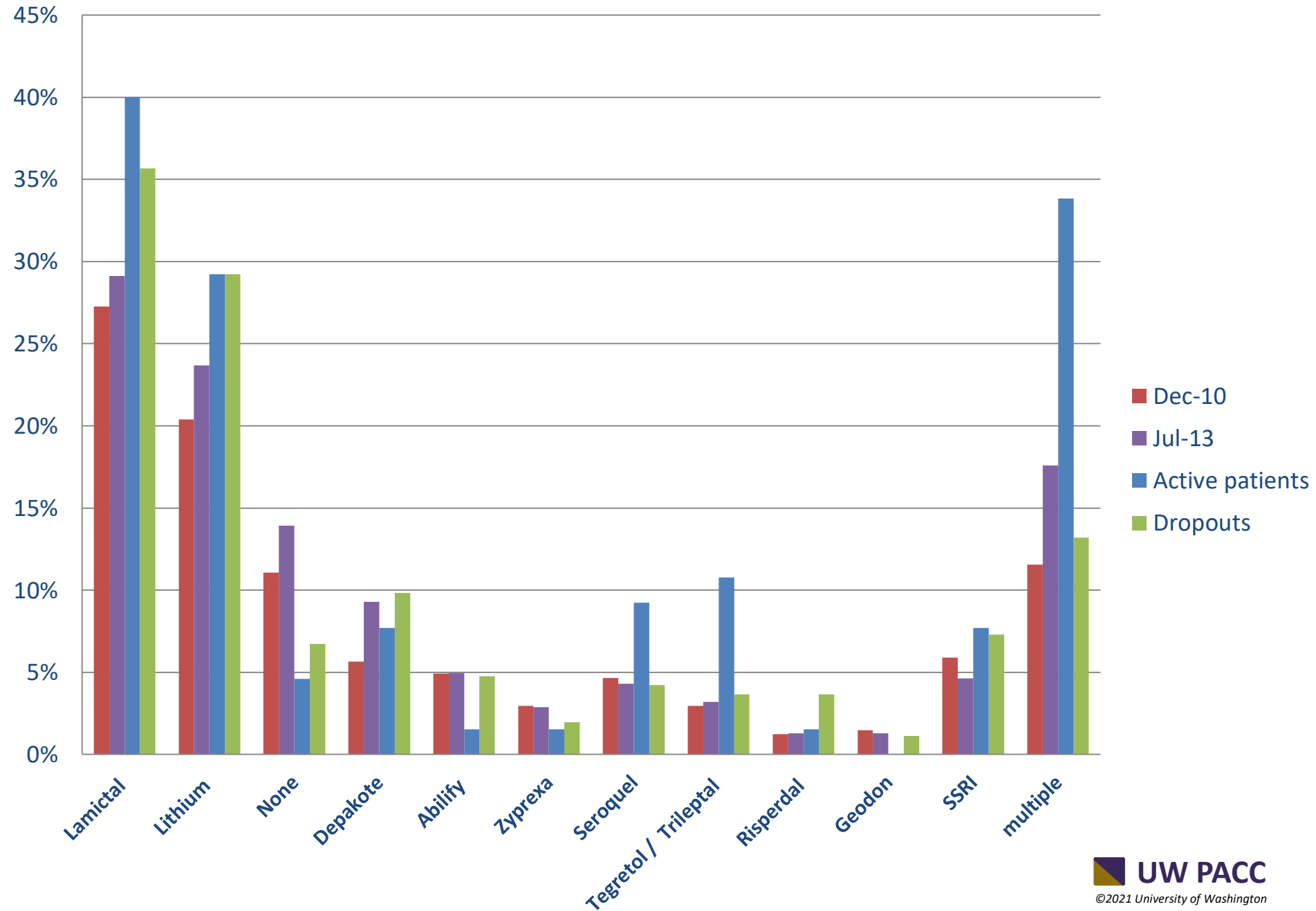
# Outcome Bipolar Patients



# Mood Disorder Dx and retention



# Bipolar meds and retention





# HIGHLIGHTS OF REGIONAL MHC EXPERIENCE

- PCP's haven't decided to do it alone.
- Problems with referrals, funding continue.
- Diagnosis - Mood NOS, or depressed people you don't want to give SSRI.
- Can adequate bipolar mgmt be done - info, monitoring, psychosocial support? So far we have no psychosocial protocol following first appt.
- Can this more intensive work coexist with the short-term immediate-access BHC model?
- Retention.

# SPIRIT STUDY TAKEHOMES

Collaborative Care of bipolar disorder and PTSD works in rural FQHC's.

Nothing exotic about treatment approach – the medication interventions were standard and the behavioral interventions straightforward.

# APPROACHING BIPOLAR DEPRESSION VS ENHANCING MOOD STABILITY

## Improving Depression

- Lamictal [not so useful in mixed states]
- Seroquel
  - Metabolic risk
- Lurasidone
- [Olanzapine / fluoxetine]
  - Antidepressant risk
- Avoiding antidepressant

## Mood Stabilizers

- Lithium
  - Still the gold standard.
- Depakote
- Carbamazepine
- [Oxcarbazepine]
- Atypical antipsychotics
  - Effective but metabolic risk and risk of TD.

Expanded use of antipsychotic due to “ease of use” – is this a good idea?

# IS POLYPHARMACY WRONG?

- STEP-BD Project found 89% of those successfully treated for bipolar disorder required three medications.

# QUESTIONS / CASES?

