

## Patients' opinions on the validity of the diagnosis of pediatric bipolar disorder

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The recent debates regarding the validity of Pediatric Bipolar Disorder (PBD) as a valid diagnosis is concerning to many patients who have firsthand experience of the trajectory that Bipolar Disorder (BD) can take when not treated early. We offer patients' perspectives on the arguments made in the commentaries, which we believe should be taken into consideration before consequential decisions like eliminating a diagnosis is proposed. We are certainly not experts in the study of PBD, but rather, experts on the subjective experience that only those who fall on the bipolar spectrum are able to identify with. We do not disagree with all the statements made in these commentaries. However, we do believe that the debate is not complete without hearing from those who experienced symptoms in childhood. We offer first hand experiences from three patients who will attest to strong reactions elicited by the suggestions made.

### Biography

Katrin I. Kutlucinar is a Research Associate at Research and Conversations about Bipolar Disorder Inc. Her focus is on recovery, quality of care and embracing the individuality of the client and patient. Her goal is to improve the quality and availability of mental health services for those living with mood and psychotic disorders through research and psychotherapy.

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