***Toward Reducing Suicidal Risk in Youth with Bipolar Disorder***

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Risk for completed suicide in bipolar disorder is among the highest of all psychiatric disorders. Suicide risk increases dramatically during adolescence, and early illness onset is a potent risk factor for suicidal behavior in individuals with bipolar disorder. Up to 50% of youth with bipolar disorder attempt suicide, and psychological autopsy studies indicate of all psychiatric diagnoses, bipolar disorder imparts the greatest risk for completed suicide in youth. We will present data on suicidal behavior from cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of youth with bipolar disorder that further document the prevalence of suicidality in youth with bipolar disorder, and identify both distal and proximal risk factors from a variety of domains. We will discuss treatment options for youth with bipolar disorder and share results from our work to date examining Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) to decrease suicide risk among adolescents with bipolar disorder.