

Screening For Bipolar Disorder

The Mood Disorder Questionnaire (MDQ)* is a screening tool that may be used to help determine whether patients are experiencing symptoms of Bipolar Disorder.

Scoring the MDQ for Bipolar Disorder

The MDQ screens for a lifetime history of manic or hypomanic symptoms by including 13 yes/no items derived from both the DSM-IV criteria and clinical experience.

Positive screen for Bipolar Disorder requires the patient to answer:

- “Yes” to at least 7 of the 13 parts in question 1, and
- “Yes” to question 2, and
- “Moderate” to “serious” to question 3.

References:

Hirschfeld RMA, Williams JBW, Spitzer, RL, et al. Development and Validation of a Screening Instrument for Bipolar Spectrum Disorder: The Mood Disorder Questionnaire. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2000; 157:1873-1875.

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