

# THE IMPACT OF LONG-ACTING INJECTABLES (LAIs)



Due to the chronic nature of bipolar I disorder and the negative consequences of mood recurrences, maintenance treatment is usually required. Some experts have noted, LAIs may be underutilized as a maintenance treatment option for individuals with bipolar I disorder.<sup>1,2</sup>

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION (APA) GUIDELINES

The main goals for treating patients with bipolar I disorder are to<sup>1</sup>



Prevent relapse/  
recurrence



Reduce subthreshold  
symptoms



Reduce cycling frequency  
of mania and depression



Improve  
functioning

To accomplish these goals, the French Association for Biological Psychiatry and Neuropsychopharmacology and the Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments recommend the earlier use of LAIs when treating appropriate patients.<sup>2</sup> Consistent treatment is a crucial element of a patient's treatment journey.<sup>2-5</sup>

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MENTAL WELLBEING AND AN EXPERT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY OTSUKA AND LUNDBECK\*

HCPs should consider an LAI for their patients<sup>2,3</sup>  
if they HAVE

- Difficulty adhering to oral medications
- Concerns about social stigma
- A need for consistent and predictable dosing

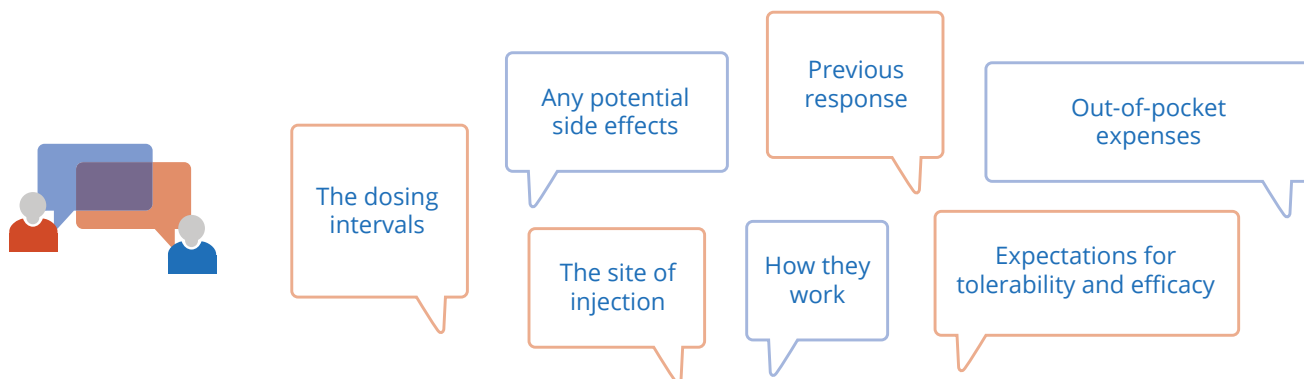
if they ARE

- Not responding well to oral medications
- Transitioning between settings
- Wanting fewer daily medications

\*The expert consensus survey contained 50 questions and was administered online; it included 42 participants who were either researchers in mood and psychotic disorders with expertise in LAI trials or clinicians with extensive expertise in the use of multiple LAI formulations.<sup>2</sup>

ACCORDING TO AN EXPERT SURVEY CONDUCTED BY OTSUKA AND LUNDBECK\*

## HCPs should focus on these topics when discussing LAIs with patients<sup>2</sup>:



## POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS

### The potential benefits of LAIs<sup>2</sup>

May be an effective maintenance treatment option
May potentially reduce the medication-taking burden
May potentially increase transparency of adherence
Ease of administration

### The potential drawbacks of LAIs<sup>1,3</sup>

Adverse reaction to the medication
Acute pain at injection site
May be difficult to access
Patient may have had negative experiences with injectable medications in the past

### The potential benefits of oral antipsychotic medications<sup>6</sup>

Long duration of action
Many generics available

### The potential drawbacks of oral antipsychotic medications<sup>2,6</sup>

Daily administration
Visible daily reminder of the illness

**Informed discussions that highlight the benefits of and address any concerns about treatment options, including LAIs, are crucial for helping patients understand a potential treatment.<sup>3</sup>**

\*The expert consensus survey contained 50 questions and was administered online; it included 42 participants who were either researchers in mood and psychotic disorders with expertise in LAI trials or clinicians with extensive expertise in the use of multiple LAI formulations.  
 HCP=healthcare professional.

1. Pacchiarotti I, Tiihonen J, Kotzalidis GD, et al. Long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAIs) for maintenance treatment of bipolar and schizoaffective disorders: a systematic review. *Eur Neuropsychopharmacol*. 2019;29(4):457-470. 2. Sajatovic M, Ross R, Legacy SN, et al. Initiating/maintaining long-acting injectable antipsychotics in schizophrenia/schizoaffective or bipolar disorder—expert consensus survey part 2. *Neuropsychiatr Dis Treat*. 2018;14:1475-1492. doi:10.2147/NDT.S167485 3. National Council for Mental Wellbeing. Guide to long-acting medications. April 26, 2023. Accessed April 2024. <https://www.thenationalcouncil.org/resources/guide-to-long-acting-medications/> 4. Hirschfeld RMA, Bowden CL, Gitlin MJ, et al. *Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients With Bipolar Disorder*. 2nd ed. APA, 2010: APA Publishing website. Accessed April 2024. [https://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice\\_guidelines/guidelines/bipolar.pdf](https://psychiatryonline.org/pb/assets/raw/sitewide/practice_guidelines/guidelines/bipolar.pdf) 5. Lin CH, Chan HY, Hsu CC, Chen FC. Time to rehospitalization in patients with bipolar mania discharged on long-acting injectable or oral antipsychotics. *J Affect Disord*. 2021;279:292-298. doi:10.1016/j.jad.2020.10.023 6. Kane JM, McEvoy JP, Correll CU, Llorca PM. Controversies surrounding the use of long-acting injectable antipsychotic medications for the treatment of patients with schizophrenia. *CNS Drugs*. 2021;35:1189-1205.