



Association of polygenic score for major depression with response to lithium in patients with bipolar disorder

Azmeraw Amare, Klaus Oliver Schubert, Liping Hou, Scott Clark, Sergi Papiol, Micah Cearn, Urs Heilbronner, Franziska Degenhardt, Fasil Tekola-Ayele, Yi-Hsiang Hsu, et al.

► To cite this version:

Azmeraw Amare, Klaus Oliver Schubert, Liping Hou, Scott Clark, Sergi Papiol, et al.. Association of polygenic score for major depression with response to lithium in patients with bipolar disorder. *Molecular Psychiatry*, 2021, Online ahead of print. 10.1038/s41380-020-0689-5 . inserm-03130374

HAL Id: inserm-03130374

<https://inserm.hal.science/inserm-03130374>

Submitted on 3 Feb 2021

HAL is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers.

L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

Association of Polygenic Score for Major Depression with Response to Lithium in

Patients with Bipolar Disorder

Azmeraw T. Amare, MPH, MSc, PhD^{1,2*}; Klaus Oliver Schubert, MD, PhD^{1,3*}; Liping Hou, PhD⁴; Scott R. Clark, MBBS, PhD¹; Sergi Papiol, PhD^{5,6}; Micah Cearns, BSc (Hons)¹; Urs Heilbronner, PhD^{5,7}; Franziska Degenhardt, MD⁸; Fasil Tekola-Ayele, PhD⁹; Yi-Hsiang Hsu, PhD^{10,11}; Tatyana Shekhtman, MSc¹²; Mazda Adli, MD¹³; Nirmala Akula, PhD⁴; Kazufumi Akiyama, MD¹⁴; Raffaella Arda, MD¹⁵; Bárbara Arias, PhD¹⁶; Jean-Michel Aubry, MD¹⁷; Lena Backlund, MD, PhD¹⁸; Abesh Kumar Bhattacharjee, MD¹²; Frank Bellivier, MD, PhD¹⁹; Antonio Benabarre, MD, PhD²⁰; Susanne Bengesser, MD²¹; Joanna M. Biernacka, PhD^{22,23}; Armin Birner, MD²¹; Clara Brichant-Petitjean, MD¹⁹; Pablo Cervantes, MD²⁴; Hsi-Chung Chen, MD, PhD²⁵; Caterina Chillotti, MD¹⁵; Sven Cichon, PhD^{8,26}; Cristiana Cruceanu, PhD²⁷; Piotr M. Czerski, PhD²⁸; Nina Dalkner, MSc²¹; Alexandre Dayer, MD¹⁷; Maria Del Zompo, MD²⁹; J. Raymond DePaulo, MD³⁰; Bruno Étain, MD, PhD¹⁹; Stephane Jamain, PhD³¹; Peter Falkai, MD³²; Andreas J. Forstner, MD^{8,26,33}; Louise Frisen, MD¹⁸; Mark A. Frye, MD²³; Janice M. Fullerton, PhD^{34, 35}; Sébastien Gard, MD³⁶; Julie S. Garnham, BN³⁷; Fernando S. Goes, MD³⁰; Maria Grigoriu-Serbanescu, PhD³⁸; Paul Grof, MD, PhD³⁹; Ryota Hashimoto, MD, PhD^{40,41}; Joanna Hauser, MD²⁸; Stefan Herms, Dipl.Biol.^{8,26}; Per Hoffmann, PhD^{8,26}; Andrea Hofmann, PhD⁸; Esther Jiménez, PhD²⁰; Jean-Pierre Kahn, MD, PhD⁴²; Layla Kassem, PhD⁴; Po-Hsiu Kuo, PhD⁴³; Tadafumi Kato, MD, PhD⁴⁴; John Kelsoe, MD¹²; Sarah Kittel-Schneider, MD⁴⁵; Sebastian Kliwicki, MD⁴⁶; Barbara König, MSc⁴⁷; Ichiro Kusumi, MD⁴⁸; Gonzalo Laje, MD⁴; Mikael Landén, MD^{49,50}; Catharina Lavebratt, PhD¹⁸; Marion Leboyer, MD, PhD⁵¹; Susan G. Leckband, BSc⁵²; Alfonso Tortorella, MD⁵³; Mirko Manchia, MD, PhD^{54,55}; Lina Martinsson, MD⁵⁶; Michael J. McCarthy, MD, PhD^{12,57}; Susan McElroy, MD⁵⁸; Francesc Colom, PhD^{59,60}; Marina Mitjans, PhD^{60,61}; Francis M. Mondimore, MD³⁰; Palmiero Monteleone, MD^{62,63}; Caroline M. Nievergelt, PhD¹²; Markus M. Nöthen, MD⁸; Tomas Novák, MD⁶⁴; Claire O'Donovan, MB³⁷; Norio Ozaki, MD⁶⁵; Urban Ösby, MD, PhD⁶⁶; Andrea Pfennig, MD⁶⁷; James B. Potash, MD, MPH³⁰; Andreas Reif, MD⁴⁵; Major Depressive Disorder Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium⁶⁸; Eva Reininghaus, MD²¹; Guy A. Rouleau, MD⁶⁹; Janusz K. Rybakowski, MD⁴⁶; Martin

Schalling, MD¹⁸; Peter R. Schofield, PhD, DSc^{34,35}; Barbara W. Schweizer, RN³⁰; Giovanni Severino, MD²⁹; Paul D. Shilling, PhD¹²; Katzutaka Shimoda, MD⁷⁰; Christian Simhandl, MD⁷¹; Claire M. Slaney, RN³⁷; Alessio Squassina, PhD²⁹; Thomas Stamm, MD¹³; Pavla Stopkova, MD⁶⁴; Mario Maj, MD⁶³; Gustavo Turecki, MD²⁷; Eduard Vieta, MD, PhD²⁰; Julia Veeh, PhD⁴⁵; Stephanie H. Witt, PhD⁷²; Adam Wright, MCP⁷³; Peter P. Zandi, PhD⁷⁴; Philip B. Mitchell, MD⁷³; Michael Bauer, MD, PhD⁶⁷; Martin Alda, MD³⁷; Marcella Rietschel, MD⁷²; Francis J. McMahon, MD⁴; Thomas G. Schulze, MD^{4,5,7,30,72}; Bernhard T. Baune, MD, PhD⁷⁵⁻⁷⁷

* The authors Azmeraw T Amare and K. Oliver Schubert contributed equally to this study and are regarded as shared first authors.

AFFILIATIONS

¹Discipline of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

²South Australian Academic Health Science and Translation Centre, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

³Northern Adelaide Local Health Network, Mental Health Services, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

⁴Intramural Research Program, National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health, US Department of Health & Human Services, Bethesda, MD, USA

⁵Institute of Psychiatric Phenomics and Genomics (IPPG), University Hospital, LMU Munich, Munich, Germany

⁶Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Munich, Germany

⁷Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Medical Center (UMG), Georg-August University Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany

⁸Institute of Human Genetics, University of Bonn and Department of Genomics, Life & Brain Center, Bonn, Germany

⁹Epidemiology Branch, Division of Intramural Population Health Research, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

¹⁰HSL Institute for Aging Research, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, United States

¹¹Program for Quantitative Genomics, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, MA, United States

¹²Department of Psychiatry, University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA, United States

¹³Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Campus Charité Mitte, Berlin, Germany

¹⁴Department of Biological Psychiatry and Neuroscience, Dokkyo Medical University School of Medicine, Mibu, Tochigi, Japan

¹⁵Unit of Clinical Pharmacology, Hospital University Agency of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

¹⁶Unitat de Zoologia i Antropologia Biològica (Dpt. Biologia Evolutiva, Ecologia i Ciències Ambientals), Facultat de Biologia and Institut de Biomedicina (IBUB), University of Barcelona, CIBERSAM, Barcelona, Spain

¹⁷Department of Psychiatry, Mood Disorders Unit, HUG - Geneva University Hospitals, Geneva, Switzerland

¹⁸Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, and Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

¹⁹INSERM UMR-S 1144, Université Paris Diderot, Département de Psychiatrie et de Médecine Addictologique, AP-HP, Groupe Hospitalier Saint-Louis-Lariboisière-F.Widal, Paris, France

²⁰Bipolar Disorder Program, Institute of Neuroscience, Hospital Clinic, University of Barcelona, IDIBAPS, CIBERSAM, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

²¹Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapeutic Medicine, Research Unit for bipolar affective disorder, Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria

²²Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, United States

²³Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, United States

²⁴The Neuromodulation Unit, McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada

- ²⁵Department of Psychiatry & Center of Sleep Disorders, National Taiwan University Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan
- ²⁶Human Genomics Research Group, Department of Biomedicine, University Hospital Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- ²⁷Douglas Mental Health University Institute, McGill University, Montreal, Canada
- ²⁸Psychiatric Genetic Unit, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland
- ²⁹Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy
- ³⁰Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, United States
- ³¹Inserm U955, Translational Psychiatry laboratory, Fondation FondaMental, Créteil, France
- ³²Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Munich, Germany
- ³³Department of Psychiatry (UPK), University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- ³⁴Neuroscience Research Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- ³⁵School of Medical Sciences, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW, Australia
- ³⁶Service de psychiatrie, Hôpital Charles Perrens, Bordeaux, France
- ³⁷Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- ³⁸Biometric Psychiatric Genetics Research Unit, Alexandru Obregia Clinical Psychiatric Hospital, Bucharest, Romania
- ³⁹Mood Disorders Center of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- ⁴⁰Molecular Research Center for Children's Mental Development, United Graduate School of Child Development, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan
- ⁴¹Department of Psychiatry, Osaka University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan
- ⁴²Service de Psychiatrie et Psychologie Clinique, Centre Psychothérapique de Nancy - Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France
- ⁴³Department of Public Health & Institute of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, College of Public Health, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
- ⁴⁴Laboratory for Molecular Dynamics of Mental Disorders, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Saitama, Japan
- ⁴⁵Department of Psychiatry, Psychosomatic Medicine and Psychotherapy, University Hospital Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany

⁴⁶Department of Adult Psychiatry, Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poznan, Poland

⁴⁷Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapeutic Medicine, Landesklinikum Neunkirchen, Neunkirchen, Austria

⁴⁸Department of Psychiatry, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan

⁴⁹Institute of Neuroscience and Physiology, the Sahlgrenska Academy at the Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden

⁵⁰Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

⁵¹Inserm U955, Translational Psychiatry laboratory, Université Paris-Est-Créteil, Department of Psychiatry and Addictology of Mondor University Hospital, AP-HP, Fondation FondaMental, Créteil, France

⁵²Office of Mental Health, VA San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, CA, United States

⁵³Department of Psychiatry, University of Perugia, Italy

⁵⁴Section of Psychiatry, Department of Medical Sciences and Public Health, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy

⁵⁵Department of Pharmacology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada

⁵⁶Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

⁵⁷Department of Psychiatry, VA San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, CA, United States

⁵⁸Department of Psychiatry, Lindner Center of Hope / University of Cincinnati, Mason, OH, United States

⁵⁹Mental Health Research Group, IMIM-Hospital del Mar, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain

⁶⁰Centro de Investigación Biomédica en Red de Salud Mental (CIBERSAM), Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Madrid, Spain

⁶¹Clinical Neuroscience, Max Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine, Göttingen, Germany

⁶²Neurosciences Section, Department of Medicine, Surgery and Dentistry “Scuola Medica Salernitana”, University of Salerno, Salerno, Italy

⁶³Department of Psychiatry, University of Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli”, Naples, Italy

⁶⁴National Institute of Mental Health, Klecany, Czech Republic

⁶⁵Department of Psychiatry & Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya, Japan

⁶⁶Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences, and Society, Karolinska Institutet and Center for Molecular Medicine, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden

⁶⁷Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Hospital Carl Gustav Carus, Medical Faculty, Technische Universität Dresden, Germany

⁶⁸ For a full list of major depressive disorder working group of the PGC investigators, see the Supplementary Material

⁶⁹Montreal Neurological Institute and Hospital, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

⁷⁰Department of Psychiatry, Dokkyo Medical University School of Medicine, Mibu, Tochigi, Japan

⁷¹Bipolar Center Wiener Neustadt, Sigmund Freud University, Medical Faculty, Vienna, Austria

⁷²Department of Genetic Epidemiology in Psychiatry, Central Institute of Mental Health, Medical Faculty Mannheim, University of Heidelberg, Mannheim, Germany

⁷³School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales, and Black Dog Institute, Sydney, Australia

⁷⁴Department of Mental Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, United States

⁷⁵Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University of Münster, Münster, Germany

⁷⁶ Department of Psychiatry, Melbourne Medical School, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia

⁷⁷ The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, The University of Melbourne Parkville, VIC, Australia

Correspondence to:

Bernhard T. Baune

Department of Psychiatry, University of Münster, 48149 Münster, Germany

E-Mail: bernhard.baune@ukmuenster.de

ABSTRACT

Lithium is a first-line medication for bipolar disorder (BD), but only one in three patients respond optimally to the drug. Since evidence shows a strong clinical and genetic overlap between depression and bipolar disorder, we investigated whether a polygenic susceptibility to major depression is associated with response to lithium treatment in patients with BD.

Weighted polygenic scores (PGSs) were computed for major depression (MD) at different GWAS p-value thresholds using genetic data obtained from 2,586 bipolar patients who received lithium treatment and took part in the Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLi⁺Gen) study. Summary statistics from genome-wide association studies in MD (135,458 cases and 344,901 controls) from the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC) were used for PGS weighting. Response to lithium treatment was defined by continuous scores and categorical outcome (responders versus non-responders) using measurements on the *Alda* scale. Associations between PGSs of major depression and lithium treatment response were assessed using a linear and binary logistic regression modelling for the continuous and categorical outcomes, respectively. The analysis was performed for the entire cohort, and for European and Asian sub-samples.

The PGSs for MD were significantly associated with lithium treatment response in multi-ethnic, European or Asian populations, at various p-value thresholds. Bipolar patients with a low polygenic load for major depression were more likely to respond well to lithium, compared to patients with high polygenic load, [lowest vs highest PGS quartiles: multi-ethnic sample: OR =1.54 (95%CI: 1.18-2.01) and European sample: OR =1.75 (95%CI: 1.30-2.36)]. While our analysis in the Asian sample found equivalent effect size in the same direction: OR =1.71 (95%CI: 0.61-4.90), this was not statistically significant. Using PGS decile comparison, we found a similar trend of association between a high genetic loading for MD and lower response to lithium. Our findings underscore the genetic contribution to lithium response in BD and support the emerging concept of a lithium-responsive biotype in BD.

Keywords: Lithium treatment, depression, bipolar disorder, polygenic score, pharmacogenomics

INTRODUCTION

Bipolar disorder (BD) is a chronic and severe psychiatric illness characterized by episodic, abnormal manic and depressive mood states. An estimated 48.8 million people are affected by BD globally¹. The disorder accounts for 9.9 million years of life lived with disability worldwide, and substantially increases all-cause mortality and risk of suicide^{1, 2}.

Amongst available treatment options, lithium is regarded as a gold standard by several clinical guidelines^{3, 4}. Lithium uniquely protects against both manic and depressive illness phases, has demonstrated protective effects against suicide⁵⁻⁷, and is particularly effective in preventing rehospitalization⁸. However, not all patients with BD fully benefit from lithium and only about 30% show full response to the drug⁵⁻⁷. In current psychiatric practice, no biological or clinical markers exist that could reliably predict responsiveness to lithium⁹, and prescribing cannot be targeted to patients who benefit most while avoiding side effects and sub-optimal treatment for poor responders^{10, 11, 12, 13}.

In order to develop objective response markers and to move forward towards personalized prescribing of lithium for BD patients, a better understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying lithium response is urgently required. Recent genome-wide association studies (GWAS) carried out by our International Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLi⁺Gen)⁵ and others^{14, 15} have indicated that genetic variation could be an important mediator of response to long-term lithium treatment response in BD patients. Additionally, we have recently demonstrated that high genetic loading for schizophrenia (SCZ) risk variants in people with BD decreases the likelihood of favourable response to lithium¹⁶, suggesting that

polygenic score (PGS) analysis of mental and physical traits could yield important information on the genetic architecture of BD phenotypes^{17 18 19}.

BD and MD show 47% genetic overlap²⁰⁻²², and shared risk genes and biological pathways have been described^{21, 23, 24}. Lithium can be effective as an augmentation strategy in MD patients who have experienced an insufficient response to first-line antidepressants^{25, 26} and is protective against further MD episodes after symptom remission has been achieved²⁷. Moreover, a large observational study based on the Finnish registry showed that lithium is the most effective agent preventing rehospitalization in MD²⁷.

On the other hand, in BD, lithium is more effective in preventing manic than depressive episodes^{28, 29}, leading to the notion that better lithium responders might be more likely to experience manic predominant polarity, as opposed to depressive predominant polarity³⁰. In support of this view, one study found that excellent lithium responders were characterized by a manic but not depressive polarity of the index episode³¹. Another study described an episodic illness pattern of ‘mania-depression-interval’ as a predictor for a good response, whereas a ‘depression-mania-interval’ predicted poorer outcomes³². Inter-episode residual mood symptoms, as opposed to full remission^{6, 7, 33}, a rapid cycling pattern^{32, 33}, and a history of mixed episodes^{34, 35} have also been described as predictors of poor response.

On the background of these complex interactions between BD, MD, and lithium treatment, we asked whether BD patients with a high genetic susceptibility for major depression, expressed by their PGS, would respond better or worse to lithium than BD patients with a low genetic loading³⁶.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Discovery GWAS summary dataset

The polygenic score for this study was computed using individual genetic data from the International Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLi⁺Gen)⁵, and GWAS summary statistics for MD from PGC³⁶.

The summary GWAS for MD was produced from a meta-analysis of 9.6 million SNPs (Psychiatric Genomics Consortium-PGC; <http://www.med.unc.edu/pgc/>), obtained from 7 cohorts (deCODE, Generation Scotland, GERA, iPSYCH, UK Biobank, PGC29 and 23andMe) containing 135,458 MD cases and 344,901 healthy controls³⁶.

Target Study Sample

For the PGS analysis, clinical data on lithium treatment response and genetic information were obtained from the International Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLi⁺Gen; www.ConLiGen.org) for n=2,586 patients, including 23 patients in the replication sample^{3, 5, 16}. A series of quality control procedures were implemented on the genotype data before and after imputation as described below.

Target outcome

Lithium treatment response was assessed using the validated “Retrospective Criteria of Long-Term Treatment Response in Research Subjects with Bipolar Disorder” scale, also known as the *Alda* scale^{7, 37, 38}. This scale quantifies symptom improvement over the course of treatment (A score, range 0–10), which is then weighted against five criteria (B score) that assess the quality of evidence for the response score⁵, to arrive at a total *Alda* score. For

dichotomized assessment of treatment response, patients with a total score of 7 or higher were categorized as “good responders”, and the remainder were categorized as poor responders^{5, 38}. For continuous assessment of treatment response, *Alda* A scores were used³⁹. In addition to the *Alda* scale scores, information on covariates such as age and gender was collected, as described in detail elsewhere⁵.

Genotyping and quality control

The genome-wide genotypes, as well as clinical and demographic data, were collected by 22 participating sites. Quality control (QC) procedures were implemented on the genotype data using PLINK, version 1.09 prior to imputation⁴⁰. Samples with low genotype rates <95%, sex inconsistencies (based on X-chromosome heterozygosity), and one of a pair of genetically related individuals were excluded. SNPs were excluded based on the following criteria: a poor genotyping rate (<95%), strand ambiguity (A/T and C/G SNPs), a low minor allele frequency (MAF<1%), or those deviated from genotype frequency expectations under the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium ($p < 10^{-6}$).

Imputation

The genotype data passing QC were imputed on the Michigan server⁴¹ (<https://imputationserver.sph.umich.edu>) separately for each genotype platform using reference data from the 1000 Genomes Project Phase 3 (Version 5). The European reference panel was used for all the samples except for those from Japan and Taiwan, for which an East Asian reference population data was used. After excluding low-frequency SNPs (MAF<10%); low-quality variants (imputation INFO < 0.9); and indels, the imputed

dosages were converted to best guess genotypes. The subsequent polygenic analyses were performed using these best guess genotypes.

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

Polygenic score (PGS) association analysis

PGSs were calculated using the approach previously described by the International Schizophrenia Consortium⁴². Prior to the PGS computation, independent SNPs were identified through a clumping procedure. Quality-controlled SNPs were clumped for linkage disequilibrium based on GWAS association p-value informed clumping at $r^2 = 0.1$ within a 250- kilobase window to create a SNP-set in linkage equilibrium using PLINK software, version 1.09 run on Linux (*plink --clump-p1 1 --clump-p2 1 --clump-r2 0.1 --clump-kb 250*). PGSs of MD were calculated for each patient in the ConLi⁺Gen sample at 10 p-value thresholds ($<1 \times 10^{-4}$, $<1 \times 10^{-3}$, <0.01 , <0.05 , <0.1 , <0.2 , <0.3 , <0.4 , <0.5 , <1). For a patient, a PGS was calculated at each p-value threshold (P_T) as the sum of allelic counts (from 0 to 2) for the reference alleles across independent SNPs on a genome-wide scale weighted by their effect sizes estimated as beta or log10 (odds ratio), obtained from previously published GWASs of MD³⁶.

Once the PGSs were constructed, a binary logistic regression model was applied for the binary outcome (lithium response versus non-response) and a linear regression modelling was implemented for the continuous outcome (*Alda* score on subscale A) to evaluate the association of the PGSs for MD with lithium treatment response at each P_T . Using the PGS at the most optimal thresholds, we divided the study samples into quartiles and deciles, ranging from the lowest polygenic load (1st quartile or 1st decile) to the highest polygenic

load (4th quartile or 10th decile). Then, we compared BP patients in the lower polygenic load quartiles (1st to 3rd quartiles or 1st to 9th decile) with patients in the highest polygenic load quartile (4th quartile or 10th decile), to quantify the effect of MD polygenic load on lithium treatment response. The analysis was performed for the European sample (N=2366), Asian sample(N=220) and all the sample combined (N=2586). Associations were considered significant at $p < 0.05$ after adjusting for covariates.

The PGS association analyses were adjusted for the covariates age, gender, genotyping platform, a polygenic score for schizophrenia¹⁶, a polygenic score for bipolar disorder⁴³, and 7 principal components (PCs) in the combined sample or 5 PCs in the European sample and 4 PCs in the Asian sample. The PCs were computed using a --pca command in PLINK and then the top PCs with an eigenvalue of >2.0 were extracted and used as covariates to correct for population stratification. The analyses were performed using R for Statistical Computing and PLINK, version 1.09 for Linux⁴⁰. Prediction accuracy, the percentage of variance in lithium response accounted for by the PGS at each P_T , was estimated as the variance explained by the full model including each PGS and covariates minus the variance explained by the model including only covariates.

Sensitivity analysis

To evaluate the robustness of our findings, we ran sensitivity analyses using GWAS summary data from bone traits [lumbar spine bone mineral density, femoral neck mineral density and forearm bone mineral density]⁴⁴ that have previously shown non-significant genetic correlations with psychiatric disorders⁴⁵. Once we compute polygenic scores for lumbar spine bone mineral density, femoral neck mineral density and forearm bone mineral

density, we evaluated its association with lithium treatment response, both continuous and categorical outcomes, in the combined sample (N=2586). Each analysis was adjusted for covariates age, gender, genotyping platform, polygenic score for schizophrenia¹⁶, polygenic score for bipolar disorder⁴³ and 7 PCs.

RESULTS

Sample characteristics and lithium treatment response rate

After QC, 2,586 patients (3,193 before QC) remained for analysis. While n=2,366 were of European ancestry, the remaining (n=220) were of Asian ancestry. In all, 704 patients (27.2%) responded optimally to lithium treatment (total *Alda* score ≥ 7). Detailed sample and demographics details have been described previously¹⁶. Analysis of the correlation between the PGSs for MD and the self-reported number of depressive episodes available for a subset of the ConLi⁺Gen sample (N=1140) showed a statistically significant positive correlation, with estimates ranging from 0.08 to 0.12, suggesting that the PGS for MD may be an approximation to a more severe depressive phenotype in BD (**Supplementary Figure 1**).

The polygenic score for MD is inversely associated with lithium treatment response in BD

Statistically significant associations were found at various p-value thresholds between the PGSs for MD and lithium treatment response. In the combined multi-ethnic sample, the strongest association were found at $P_T < 5 \times 10^{-2}$; $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.8\%$ with the continuous outcome (*Alda* A score) and $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.7\%$ with the categorical outcome (total *Alda* score ≥ 7) (**Figure 1A**).

In European ancestry patients, the PGS at most of the tested p-value thresholds showed significant associations of MD PGS with lithium response across continuous and dichotomized outcomes. Strongest associations were found at $P_T < 5 \times 10^{-2}$; $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.7\%$ with the continuous outcome and $p < 0.001$, $R^2 = 0.9\%$ with the categorical outcome (**Figure 1B**). However, in the Asian sub-sample, the association of the PGS for MD and lithium treatment response was less robust and marginal associations were found only with the continuous outcome at $P_T < 1 \times 10^{-2}$ ($p = 0.034$, $R^2 = 0.85\%$) and $P_T < 5 \times 10^{-2}$ ($p = 0.042$, $R^2 = 0.75\%$) (**Figure 1C**). Using PRSice2 software, we found consistent results of association between the PGSs for depression and lithium treatment response⁴⁶ (**Supplementary Figure 2A-C**). After adjusting for multiple testing using the Bonferroni method⁴⁷, associations remained statistically significant in the multi-ethnic and European sample, but not in the Asian sample (**Supplementary Table 1**). Beta coefficients for all associations were negative, indicating that high genetic loadings for MD are associated with poorer response to lithium in BD.

[Insert figure 1 A-C about here]

To further evaluate the impact of MD PGS on lithium treatment response, we divided the study population into quartiles and deciles based on their polygenic loading for MD. As shown in Figure 2 and Table 1, BD patients who carry a lower polygenic load (1st quartile or 1st decile) for MD have higher odds of favourable lithium treatment response, compared to patients carrying a high polygenic load (4th quartile or 10th decile). In the combined sample, the odds ratio (OR) of favourable response for patients in the 1st quartile compared with those in the 4th quartile was 1.54 (95%CI: 1.18 - 2.01) and the OR of patients in 1st decile compared to the 10th decile was 1.49 (95%CI: 0.97, 2.31). Stratified analysis by ethnicity

found a stronger association in the European sample than the Asian sample (**Table 1, Figure 2 & Supplementary Figure 3**).

Title Table 1: Odds ratios of favourable lithium treatment response in patients with BD - comparing the response status of patients in the low PGS decile for MD with patients with the highest polygenic load (10th decile).

[Insert table 1 & figure 2 about here]

Legend Table 1: Reference (10th decile) are the PGSs categories with the highest polygenic load for MD at the most significant threshold.

¥ adjusted for the covariates age - gender - genotyping platform - polygenic score for schizophrenia¹⁶ - polygenic score for bipolar disorder⁴³ and 7 principal components (PCs) in the combined sample or 5 PCs in the European sample and 4 PCs in the Asian sample.

Sensitivity analysis

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we performed a sensitivity analysis and found no significant association between the polygenic scores for lumbar spine bone mineral density, femoral neck mineral density or forearm bone mineral density and lithium treatment response in bipolar patients, $p < 0.05$ for all polygenic scores computed at different p-value thresholds (**Supplementary Figure 4A-C**).

DISCUSSION

Our study represents the first direct molecular evidence of an association between a genetic predisposition for major depression and poorer response to lithium treatment in patients with BD. Using PGS analyses of genetic variants related to MD, we found that BD patients with *low* genetic loading for these variants were about 1.5 times *more* likely to have favourable long-term outcomes following lithium treatment compared to BD patients with high MD genetic loading. Higher MD PGSs were associated with a higher number of reported life-time depressive episodes. Analyses following stratification of our sample into European and Asian ancestries indicated that these associations were particularly robust in the European subsample. Adjustment for the potential effects of psychiatric traits that show genetic overlap with MD (SCZ, BD), and sensitivity analyses with medical traits that are unrelated to psychiatric disorders⁴⁴ underscored the overall robustness of our findings.

Our findings could form part of a genetic explanation for the previously described clinical observations in relation to mania, depression and lithium response in BD^{6, 7, 28-35} and supports the notion that better lithium responsiveness could be associated with a ‘core’ bipolar phenotype in the *Kraepelinian* form of manic depression^{35, 48}, characterized by a predominant mania-depression-interval (MDI) sequence pattern^{49, 50}. That such a phenotype is complex and difficult to clinically identify is exemplified by the lack of meta-analytic evidence for a more straightforward association between lithium response and mania over depression dominance in BD⁵⁰. Similarly, previous family studies found no association of a family psychiatric history of MD and poorer lithium response in BD⁵¹.

Together with the previously reported inverse association of lithium response and schizophrenia PGS¹⁶, in the same cohort, our finding suggests that the presence of psychiatric co-morbid genetic traits in BD diminishes the likelihood of optimal treatment response to lithium. Given the substantial overlap between schizophrenia- and MD risk alleles⁴³, the possibility that these effects are driven by similar molecular mechanisms warrants further clarification in future studies.

In addition to its effects in BD, lithium's effectiveness as an adjunct antidepressant treatment for people with treatment-resistant MD is well established⁵²⁻⁵⁸, and lithium is a first-line treatment for BD type 2 that shows a substantial genetic overlap with MD⁵⁹. Therefore, our finding raises the intriguing possibility that lithium possesses specific antidepressant mechanisms of action that are different from the mechanisms conferring long-term treatment response in BD.

Our finding of a more robust effect of the MD PGS association with lithium response in European compared to Asian patients is interesting but needs to be interpreted with caution. First, our Asian sub-sample was small (n=220) and may not have been powered sufficiently to detect more consistent effects. Second, the polygenic basis of MD in East Asian and European populations is only partially shared with reported trans-ancestry genetic correlation of 0.33-0.41⁶⁰. The projection of MD risk alleles obtained from the global PGC study onto the Asian ConLi⁺Gen cohort for PGS analysis may, therefore, be less precise and underestimate the true MD PGS effect. It is notable that ethnic differences with regards to lithium response have not been studied extensively and are not supported by a smaller previous study⁶¹.

The main limitation of our study is that PGSs for MD explain only a small proportion of the variance in lithium treatment response (<1%), and on their own have no utility as clinical tests.

However, since we detected significant effects in our relatively small sample, it is likely that in the future increased sample sizes will further improve the predictive power of PGSs⁶². Further, the current version of the *Alda* scale assesses only overall lithium efficacy but not effects specific to predominant illness polarity or episode sequence pattern. Availability and incorporation of such information would have refined our results. While our findings, in isolation, are not yet ripe for clinical applications, they could serve as a component of multimodal prediction models incorporating clinical and other biological data. The development of such models and the demonstration of their potential clinical utility in prospective study designs are beyond the scope of the current investigation but need to be attempted to translate our research findings into actionable clinical applications.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that high genetic loadings for MD are predictive of unfavourable long-term response to lithium in patients with BD. Our study underscores the potential of PGS analysis to contribute to predictive models for medication response in psychiatry. The results of our study support clinical observations that have pointed to better lithium responsiveness in a BD subtype characterized by lower psychiatric co-morbidity and more dominant mania-related clinical features.

Conflict of interest

All authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Acknowledgment

The authors are grateful to all patients who participated in the study and we appreciate the contributions of clinicians, scientists, research assistants and study staffs who have helped with patient recruitment, data collection and sample preparation for the studies. We are also indebted to the members of the ConLi⁺Gen Scientific Advisory Board (<http://www.conligen.org/>) for critical input over the course of the project.

The analysis of this study was carried out using the high-performance computational capabilities of the University of Adelaide, Phoenix supercomputer <https://www.adelaide.edu.au/phoenix/>.

Funding

ATA received a Postgraduate Research Scholarship support from the University of Adelaide through the Adelaide Scholarship International (ASI) program. We thank 23andMe, Inc. staffs for giving us the permission to utilize GWAS summary data for depression which was included as part of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC) study. The primary sources of funding were the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG; grant no.RI 908/7-1; grant FOR2107, RI 908/11-1 to Marcella Rietschel, NO 246/10-1 to Markus M. Nöthen, WI3429/3-1 to Stephanie H. Witt) and the Intramural Research Program of the National Institute of Mental Health (ZIA-MH00284311; ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT00001174). The genotyping was in part funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) through the Integrated Network IntegraMent (Integrated Understanding of Causes and Mechanisms in Mental Disorders), under the auspices of the e:Med Programme (grants awarded to Thomas G. Schulze, Marcella Rietschel, and Markus M. Nöthen).

Some data and biomaterials were collected as part of eleven projects (Study 40) that participated in the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Bipolar Disorder Genetics Initiative. From 2003–2007, the Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators were: Indiana University, Indianapolis, IN, R01 MH59545, John Nurnberger, M.D., Ph.D., Marvin J. Miller, M.D., Elizabeth S. Bowman, M.D., N. Leela Rau, M.D., P.Ryan Moe, M.D., Nalini Samavedy, M.D., Rif El-Mallakh, M.D. (at University of Louisville), Hussein Manji, M.D.(at Johnson and Johnson), Debra A.Glitz, M.D.(at Wayne State University), Eric T. Meyer, Ph.D., M.S.(at Oxford University, UK), Carrie Smiley, R.N., Tatiana Foroud, Ph.D., Leah Flury, M.S., Danielle M.Dick, Ph.D (at Virginia Commonwealth University), Howard Edenberg, Ph.D.; Washington University, St. Louis, MO, R01 MH059534, John Rice, Ph.D, Theodore Reich, M.D., Allison Goate, Ph.D., Laura Bierut, M.D.K02 DA21237; Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, M.D., R01 MH59533, Melvin McInnis, M.D., J.Raymond DePaulo, Jr., M.D., Dean F. MacKinnon, M.D., Francis M. Mondimore, M.D., James B. Potash, M.D., Peter P. Zandi, Ph.D, Dimitrios Avramopoulos, and Jennifer Payne; University of Pennsylvania, PA, R01 MH59553, Wade Berrettini, M.D., Ph.D.; University of California at San Francisco, CA, R01 MH60068, William Byerley, M.D., and Sophia Vinogradov, M.D.; University of Iowa, IA, R01 MH059548, William Coryell, M.D., and Raymond Crowe, M.D.; University of Chicago, IL, R01 MH59535, Elliot Gershon, M.D., Judith Badner, Ph.D., Francis McMahon, M.D., Chunyu Liu, Ph.D., Alan Sanders, M.D., Maria Caserta, Steven Dinwiddie, M.D., Tu Nguyen, Donna Harakal; University of California at San Diego, CA, R01 MH59567, John Kelsoe, M.D., Rebecca McKinney, B.A.; Rush University, IL, R01 MH059556, William Scheftner, M.D., Howard M. Kravitz, D.O., M.P.H., Diana Marta, B.S., Annette Vaughn-Brown, M.S.N., R.N., and Laurie Bederow, M.A.; NIMH Intramural Research Program, Bethesda, MD, 1Z01MH002810-01, Francis J. McMahon,

M.D., Layla Kassem, Psy.D., Sevilla Detera-Wadleigh, Ph.D, Lisa Austin, Ph.D, Dennis L. Murphy, M.D.; Howard University, William B. Lawson, M.D., Ph.D., Evarista Nwulia, M.D., and Maria Hipolito, M.D. This work was supported by the NIH grants P50CA89392 from the National Cancer Institute and 5K02DA021237 from the National Institute of Drug Abuse. The Canadian part of the study was supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to MA grant #64410 to MA. Collection and phenotyping of the Australian UNSW sample, by Philip B. Mitchell, Peter R. Schofield, Janice M. Fullerton and Adam Wright, was funded by an Australian NHMRC Program Grant (No.1037196)), with personnel supported by NHMRC project grants (No. 1063960, 1066177) and the Janette Mary O’Neil Research Fellowship to JMF. The collection of the Barcelona sample was supported by the Centro de Investigación en Red de Salud Mental (CIBERSAM), IDIBAPS, the CERCA Programme / Generalitat de Catalunya, Miguel Servet II and Instituto de Salud Carlos III (grant numbers PI080247, PI1200906, PI12/00018, 2017 SGR 1577 and 2017 SGR 1365). Dr. Colom was funded by an unrestricted grant from CIBERSAM and a tenure track grant Miguel Servet II, Instituto de Salud Carlos III (MSII14/00030). The Swedish Research Council, the Stockholm County Council, Karolinska Institutet and the Söderström-Königska Foundation supported this research through grants awarded to Lena Backlund, Louise Frisé, Catharina Lavebratt and Martin Schalling. The collection of the Geneva sample was supported by the Swiss National Foundation (grants Synapsy 51NF40-158776 and 32003B-125469). The work by the French group was supported by INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale); AP-HP (Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Paris); the Fondation FondaMental (RTRS Santé Mentale) and the labex Bio-PSY (Investissements d’Avenir program managed by the ANR under reference ANR-11-IDEX-0004-02). The German Research Foundation (DFG, grant FOR2107 DA1151/5-1 and

DA1151/5-2 to UD; SFB-TRR58, Project C09 and Z02 to UD), and the Interdisciplinary Center for Clinical Research (IZKF) of the Medical Faculty of the University of Münster (grant Dan3/012/17 to UD) supported this work. The collection of the Romanian sample was supported by U.E.F.I.S.C.D.I., Romania, grant awarded to Maria Grigoriou-Serbanescu. The collection of the Czech sample was supported by the project Nr. LO1611 with a financial support from the MEYS under the NPU I program and by the Czech Science Foundation, grant Nr. 17-07070S.

References

1. Ferrari AJ, Stockings E, Khoo JP, Erskine HE, Degenhardt L, Vos T *et al.* The prevalence and burden of bipolar disorder: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *Bipolar disorders* 2016; **18**(5): 440-450.
2. Chesney E, Goodwin GM, Fazel S. Risks of all-cause and suicide mortality in mental disorders: a meta-review. *World Psychiatry* 2014; **13**(2): 153-160.
3. Schulze TG, Alda M, Adli M, Akula N, Arda R, Bui ET *et al.* The International Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLiGen): An Initiative by the NIMH and IGSLI to Study the Genetic Basis of Response to Lithium Treatment. *Neuropsychobiology* 2010; **62**(1): 72-78.
4. Malhi GS, Bassett D, Boyce P, Bryant R, Fitzgerald PB, Fritz K *et al.* Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists clinical practice guidelines for mood disorders. *The Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry* 2015; **49**(12): 1087-1206.
5. Hou L, Heilbronner U, Degenhardt F, Adli M, Akiyama K, Akula N *et al.* Genetic variants associated with response to lithium treatment in bipolar disorder: a genome-wide association study. *The Lancet* 2016; **387**(10023): 1085-1093.
6. Grof P, Duffy A, Cavazzoni P, Grof E, Garnham J, MacDougall M *et al.* Is response to prophylactic lithium a familial trait? *The Journal of clinical psychiatry* 2002; **63**(10): 942-947.
7. Garnham J, Munro A, Slaney C, Macdougall M, Passmore M, Duffy A *et al.* Prophylactic treatment response in bipolar disorder: results of a naturalistic observation study. *J Affect Disord* 2007; **104**(1-3): 185-190.
8. Lahtenvuo M, Tanskanen A, Taipale H, Hoti F, Vattulainen P, Vieta E *et al.* Real-World Effectiveness of Pharmacologic Treatments for the Prevention of Rehospitalization in a Finnish Nationwide Cohort of Patients With Bipolar Disorder. *JAMA psychiatry* 2018.
9. Grande I, Berk M, Birmaher B, Vieta E. Bipolar disorder. *Lancet (London, England)* 2016; **387**(10027): 1561-1572.
10. Bauer M, Gitlin M. Practical Management of Lithium. *The Essential Guide to Lithium Treatment*. Springer International Publishing: Cham, 2016, pp 113-128.
11. Oedegaard KJ, Alda M, Anand A, Andreassen OA, Balaraman Y, Berrettini WH *et al.* The Pharmacogenomics of Bipolar Disorder study (PGBD): identification of genes for lithium response in a prospective sample. *BMC Psychiatry* 2016; **16**: 129.
12. Severus E, Taylor MJ, Sauer C, Pfennig A, Ritter P, Bauer M *et al.* Lithium for prevention of mood episodes in bipolar disorders: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Bipolar Disord* 2014; **2**: 15.

13. Joas E, Karanti A, Song J, Goodwin GM, Lichtenstein P, Landen M. Pharmacological treatment and risk of psychiatric hospital admission in bipolar disorder. *Br J Psychiatry* 2017; **210**(3): 197-202.
14. Chen CH, Lee CS, Lee MT, Ouyang WC, Chen CC, Chong MY *et al.* Variant GADL1 and response to lithium therapy in bipolar I disorder. *The New England journal of medicine* 2014; **370**(2): 119-128.
15. Song J, Bergen SE, Di Florio A, Karlsson R, Charney A, Ruderfer DM *et al.* Genome-wide association study identifies SESTD1 as a novel risk gene for lithium-responsive bipolar disorder. *Molecular psychiatry* 2016; **21**(9): 1290-1297.
16. Amare AT, Schubert KO, Hou L, Clark SR, Papiol S, Heilbronner U *et al.* Association of Polygenic Score for Schizophrenia and HLA Antigen and Inflammation Genes With Response to Lithium in Bipolar Affective Disorder: A Genome-Wide Association Study. *JAMA psychiatry* 2018; **75**(1): 65-74.
17. Goldberg JF, Garno JL, Leon AC, Kocsis JH, Portera L. A history of substance abuse complicates remission from acute mania in bipolar disorder. *The Journal of clinical psychiatry* 1999; **60**(11): 733-740.
18. Calkin C, van de Velde C, Ruzickova M, Slaney C, Garnham J, Hajek T *et al.* Can body mass index help predict outcome in patients with bipolar disorder? *Bipolar disorders* 2009; **11**(6): 650-656.
19. Calkin CV, Ruzickova M, Uher R, Hajek T, Slaney CM, Garnham JS *et al.* Insulin resistance and outcome in bipolar disorder. *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 2015; **206**(1): 52-57.
20. Mitchell PB, Frankland A, Hadzi-Pavlovic D, Roberts G, Corry J, Wright A *et al.* Comparison of depressive episodes in bipolar disorder and in major depressive disorder within bipolar disorder pedigrees. *The British Journal of Psychiatry* 2011; **199**(4): 303-309.
21. Cross-Disorder Group of the Psychiatric Genomics C, Lee SH, Ripke S, Neale BM, Faraone SV, Purcell SM *et al.* Genetic relationship between five psychiatric disorders estimated from genome-wide SNPs. *Nat Genet* 2013; **45**(9): 984-994.
22. Cross-Disorder Group of the Psychiatric Genomics C. Identification of risk loci with shared effects on five major psychiatric disorders: a genome-wide analysis. *The Lancet* 2013; **381**(9875): 1371-1379.
23. Amare AT, Schubert KO, Klingler-Hoffmann M, Cohen-Woods S, Baune BT. The genetic overlap between mood disorders and cardiometabolic diseases: a systematic

- review of genome wide and candidate gene studies. *Translational psychiatry* 2017; 7(1): e1007.
24. Amare AT, Schubert KO, Baune BT. Pharmacogenomics in the treatment of mood disorders: Strategies and Opportunities for personalized psychiatry. *The EPMA journal* 2017; 8(3): 211-227.
 25. Abou-Saleh MT, Muller-Oerlinghausen B, Coppen AJ. Lithium in the episode and suicide prophylaxis and in augmenting strategies in patients with unipolar depression. *Int J Bipolar Disord* 2017; 5(1): 11.
 26. Zhou X, Ravindran AV, Qin B, Del Giovane C, Li Q, Bauer M *et al.* Comparative efficacy, acceptability, and tolerability of augmentation agents in treatment-resistant depression: systematic review and network meta-analysis. *The Journal of clinical psychiatry* 2015; 76(4): e487-498.
 27. Tiihonen J, Tanskanen A, Hoti F, Vattulainen P, Taipale H, Mehtala J *et al.* Pharmacological treatments and risk of readmission to hospital for unipolar depression in Finland: a nationwide cohort study. *Lancet Psychiatry* 2017; 4(7): 547-553.
 28. Popovic D, Reinares M, Goikolea JM, Bonnin CM, Gonzalez-Pinto A, Vieta E. Polarity index of pharmacological agents used for maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder. *Eur Neuropsychopharmacol* 2012; 22(5): 339-346.
 29. Vieta E, Berk M, Schulze TG, Carvalho AF, Suppes T, Calabrese JR *et al.* Bipolar disorders. *Nat Rev Dis Primers* 2018; 4: 18008.
 30. Colom F, Vieta E, Daban C, Pacchiarotti I, Sanchez-Moreno J. Clinical and therapeutic implications of predominant polarity in bipolar disorder. *J Affect Disord* 2006; 93(1-3): 13-17.
 31. Kessing LV, Hellmund G, Andersen PK. Predictors of excellent response to lithium: results from a nationwide register-based study. *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 2011; 26(6): 323-328.
 32. Kleindienst N, Engel R, Greil W. Which clinical factors predict response to prophylactic lithium? A systematic review for bipolar disorders. *Bipolar disorders* 2005; 7(5): 404-417.
 33. Pfennig A, Schlattmann P, Alda M, Grof P, Glenn T, Muller-Oerlinghausen B *et al.* Influence of atypical features on the quality of prophylactic effectiveness of long-term lithium treatment in bipolar disorders. *Bipolar disorders* 2010; 12(4): 390-396.
 34. Fountoulakis KN, Kontis D, Gonda X, Siamouli M, Yatham LN. Treatment of mixed bipolar states. *Int J Neuropsychopharmacol* 2012; 15(7): 1015-1026.

35. Sportiche S, Geoffroy PA, Brichant-Petitjean C, Gard S, Khan JP, Azorin JM *et al.* Clinical factors associated with lithium response in bipolar disorders. *The Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry* 2017; **51**(5): 524-530.
36. Wray NR, Sullivan PF. Genome-wide association analyses identify 44 risk variants and refine the genetic architecture of major depression. *bioRxiv* 2017.
37. Duffy A, Alda M, Milin R, Grof P. A consecutive series of treated affected offspring of parents with bipolar disorder: is response associated with the clinical profile? *Can J Psychiatry* 2007; **52**(6): 369-376.
38. Manchia M, Adli M, Akula N, Arda R, Aubry JM, Backlund L *et al.* Assessment of Response to Lithium Maintenance Treatment in Bipolar Disorder: A Consortium on Lithium Genetics (ConLiGen) Report. *PloS one* 2013; **8**(6): e65636.
39. Scott J, Etain B, Manchia M, Brichant-Petitjean C, Geoffroy PA, Schulze T *et al.* An examination of the quality and performance of the Alda scale for classifying lithium response phenotypes. *Bipolar Disorders*; **n/a**(n/a).
40. Purcell S, Neale B, Todd-Brown K, Thomas L, Ferreira MA, Bender D *et al.* PLINK: a tool set for whole-genome association and population-based linkage analyses. *American journal of human genetics* 2007; **81**(3): 559-575.
41. Das S, Forer L, Schonherr S, Sidore C, Locke AE, Kwong A *et al.* Next-generation genotype imputation service and methods. *Nat Genet* 2016; **48**(10): 1284-1287.
42. Purcell SM, Wray NR, Stone JL, Visscher PM, O'Donovan MC, Sullivan PF *et al.* Common polygenic variation contributes to risk of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. *Nature* 2009; **460**(7256): 748-752.
43. Stahl EA, Breen G, Forstner AJ, McQuillin A, Ripke S, Trubetskoy V *et al.* Genome-wide association study identifies 30 loci associated with bipolar disorder. *Nat Genet* 2019; **51**(5): 793-803.
44. Zheng HF, Forgetta V, Hsu YH, Estrada K, Rosello-Diez A, Leo PJ *et al.* Whole-genome sequencing identifies EN1 as a determinant of bone density and fracture. *Nature* 2015; **526**(7571): 112-117.
45. Amare AT, Vaez A, Hsu YH, Direk N, Kamali Z, Howard DM *et al.* Bivariate genome-wide association analyses of the broad depression phenotype combined with major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia reveal eight novel genetic loci for depression. *Molecular psychiatry* 2019.
46. Choi SW, O'Reilly PF. PRSice-2: Polygenic Risk Score software for biobank-scale data. *GigaScience* 2019; **8**(7).

47. Bland JM, Altman DG. Multiple significance tests: the Bonferroni method. *BMJ* 1995; **310**(6973): 170.
48. Malhi GS, Tanious M, Das P, Berk M. The science and practice of lithium therapy. *The Australian and New Zealand journal of psychiatry* 2012; **46**(3): 192-211.
49. Grof E, Haag M, Grof P, Haag H. Lithium response and the sequence of episode polarities: preliminary report on a Hamilton sample. *Prog Neuropsychopharmacol Biol Psychiatry* 1987; **11**(2-3): 199-203.
50. Hui TP, Kandola A, Shen L, Lewis G, Osborn DPJ, Geddes JR *et al.* A systematic review and meta-analysis of clinical predictors of lithium response in bipolar disorder. *Acta Psychiatr Scand* 2019; **140**(2): 94-115.
51. Grof P, Alda M, Grof E, Zvolsky P, Walsh M. Lithium response and genetics of affective disorders. *J Affect Disord* 1994; **32**(2): 85-95.
52. Bschor T. Lithium in the Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder. *Drugs* 2014; **74**(8): 855-862.
53. Alevizos B, Alevizos E, Leonardou A, Zervas I. Low dosage lithium augmentation in venlafaxine resistant depression: an open-label study. *Psychiatrike = Psychiatriki* 2012; **23**(2): 143-148.
54. Bauer M, Döpfmer S. Lithium augmentation in treatment-resistant depression: Meta-analysis of placebo-controlled studies. *Prim Care Companion J Clin Psych* 2000; **2**(1): 31.
55. Bauer M, Adli M, Ricken R, Severus E, Pilhatsch M. Role of lithium augmentation in the management of major depressive disorder. *CNS drugs* 2014; **28**(4): 331-342.
56. Bauer M, Bschor T, Kunz D, Berghofer A, Strohle A, Muller-Oerlinghausen B. Double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of the use of lithium to augment antidepressant medication in continuation treatment of unipolar major depression. *Am J Psychiatry* 2000; **157**(9): 1429-1435.
57. Bauer M, Adli M, Baethge C, Berghöfer A, Sasse J, Heinz A *et al.* Lithium Augmentation Therapy in Refractory Depression: Clinical Evidence and Neurobiological Mechanisms. *Can J Psychiatry* 2003; **48**(7): 440-448.
58. Bschor T, Bauer M. Efficacy and mechanisms of action of Lithium augmentation in refractory major depression. *Curr Pharm Des* 2006; **12**(23): 2985-2992.
59. Kan C, Pedersen NL, Christensen K, Bornstein SR, Licinio J, MacCabe JH *et al.* Genetic overlap between type 2 diabetes and depression in Swedish and Danish twin registries. *Molecular psychiatry* 2016; **21**: 903.

60. Bigdeli TB, Ripke S, Peterson RE, Trzaskowski M, Bacanu SA, Abdellaoui A *et al.* Genetic effects influencing risk for major depressive disorder in China and Europe. *Translational psychiatry* 2017; **7**(3): e1074.
61. Shan GW, Makmor-Bakry M, Omar MS. Long term use of lithium and factors associated with treatment response among patients with bipolar disorder. *Psychiatr Danub* 2016; **28**(2): 146-153.
62. Wray NR, Lee SH, Mehta D, Vinkhuyzen AA, Dudbridge F, Middeldorp CM. Research review: Polygenic methods and their application to psychiatric traits. *Journal of child psychology and psychiatry, and allied disciplines* 2014; **55**(10): 1068-1087.

Tables

Table 1: Odds ratios of favourable lithium treatment response in patients with BD - comparing the response status of patients in the low PGS quartile or decile for MD with patients with the highest polygenic load (4th quartile or 10th decile).

Legend: reference (4th quartile and 10th decile) are the PGSs categories with the highest polygenic load for MD at the most significant threshold.

¥ adjusted for the covariates age - gender - genotyping platform - polygenic score for schizophrenia¹⁶ - polygenic score for bipolar disorder⁴³ - and 7 principal components (PCs) in the combined sample or 5 PCs in the European sample and 4 PCs in the Asian sample.

Figures

Figure 1: The association of PGS for major depression (MD) and lithium treatment response at different GWAS p-value thresholds.

Legend Figure 1: The y-axis refers to the percentage of variance in treatment response to lithium accounted for by the PGSs for major depression at particular P-value thresholds. On the x-axis, are the GWAS P-value thresholds used to select single-nucleotide polymorphisms for the PGSs. On the top of each bar are the p-values for the association between the PGSs for major depression and lithium treatment response. Beta coefficients (not shown) were negative for all associations, indicating an inverse effect of MD PGS on lithium response.

Figure 2: Odds ratios (ORs) for favourable treatment response to lithium for patients with BD.

Legend Figure 2: ORs are derived by comparing BD patients with the low MD polygenic load deciles (1st to 9th) with patients with the highest depression polygenic load (10th decile), estimated at the most significant p-value thresholds (n = 2586).

Table 1: Odds ratios of favourable lithium treatment response in patients with BD - comparing the response status of patients in the low PGS quartile or decile for MD with patients with the highest polygenic load (4th quartile or 10th decile).

Categories	Multi-ethnic (N=2586)		European (N=2366)		Asian (N=220)	
Quartile	unadjusted OR (95% CI)	[‡] Adjusted OR (95% CI)	unadjusted OR (95% CI)	[‡] Adjusted OR (95% CI)	unadjusted OR (95% CI)	[‡] Adjusted OR (95% CI)
1 st lowest score	1.50(1.17 - 1.92)	1.54(1.18 - 2.01)	1.86(1.41 - 2.47)	1.75(1.30 - 2.36)	1.43(0.55 - 3.79)	1.71(0.61 - 4.90)
2 nd	1.45(1.13 - 1.86)	1.46(1.12 - 1.90)	1.81(1.37 - 2.40)	1.77(1.31 - 2.38)	1.54(0.60 - 4.04)	1.74(0.64 - 4.85)
3 rd	1.16(0.90 - 1.49)	1.12(0.85 - 1.47)	1.25(0.94 - 1.66)	1.21(0.89 - 1.64)	0.63(0.21 - 1.81)	0.55(0.17 - 1.66)
4 th highest score	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)
Decile						
1 st lowest score	1.50(1.00 - 2.27)	1.49(0.97 - 2.31)	1.92(1.23 - 2.99)	1.74(1.08 - 2.81)	1.77(0.40 - 8.52)	2.12(0.41 - 12.13)
2 nd	2.06(1.39 - 3.09)	2.09(1.38 - 3.20)	2.1(1.35 - 3.28)	1.98(1.24 - 3.18)	1.25(0.27 - 6.08)	1.50(0.28 - 8.61)
3 rd	1.76(1.18 - 2.64)	1.68(1.10 - 2.59)	1.90(1.22 - 2.96)	1.65(1.03 - 2.66)	1.62(0.37 - 7.73)	2.26(0.46 - 12.55)
4 th	1.84(1.23 - 2.75)	1.80(1.18 - 2.77)	1.77(1.14 - 2.77)	1.72(1.08 - 2.78)	1.25(0.27 - 6.08)	1.68(0.33 - 9.44)
5 th	1.49(1.00 - 2.25)	1.43(0.93 - 2.20)	1.92(1.23 - 2.99)	1.80(1.13 - 2.90)	1.25(0.27 - 6.08)	1.40(0.28 - 7.49)
6 th	1.38(0.92 - 2.10)	1.23(0.80 - 1.92)	1.00(0.63 - 1.59)	0.91(0.56 - 1.50)	0.41(0.05 - 2.43)	0.43(0.05 - 2.87)
7 th	1.39(0.92 - 2.10)	1.39(0.90 - 2.15)	1.65(1.06 - 2.58)	1.65(1.03 - 2.66)	0.93(0.18 - 4.68)	0.95(0.17 - 5.46)
8 th	1.30(0.86 - 1.97)	1.19(0.77 - 1.85)	1.36(0.87 - 2.14)	1.19(0.74 - 1.94)	0.41(0.05 - 2.43)	0.40(0.04 - 2.74)
9 th	1.25(0.82 - 1.90)	1.17(0.75 - 1.81)	0.92(0.57 - 1.47)	0.91(0.56 - 1.50)	1.25(0.27 - 6.08)	0.61(0.12 - 3.34)
10 th highest score	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)	1 (reference)

Legend: reference (4th quartile and 10th decile) are the PGSs categories with the highest polygenic load for MD at the most significant threshold.

[‡] adjusted for the covariates age - gender - genotyping platform - polygenic score for schizophrenia¹ - polygenic score for bipolar disorder² - and 7 principal components (PCs) in the combined sample or 5 PCs in the European sample and 4 PCs in the Asian sample.

1. Amare AT, Schubert KO, Hou L, Clark SR, Papiol S, Heilbronner U *et al.* Association of Polygenic Score for Schizophrenia and HLA Antigen and Inflammation Genes With Response to Lithium in Bipolar Affective Disorder: A Genome-Wide Association Study. *JAMA psychiatry* 2018; **75**(1): 65-74.
2. Stahl EA, Breen G, Forstner AJ, McQuillin A, Ripke S, Trubetskoy V *et al.* Genome-wide association study identifies 30 loci associated with bipolar disorder. *Nat Genet* 2019; **51**(5): 793-803.



