

## 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 32-year-old female with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is currently a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she is pursuing her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. She has worked as a graduate research assistant for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and as a research assistant for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She is currently a graduate student at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she is pursuing her Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. She has worked as a graduate research assistant for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and as a research assistant for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.