Step 1
Review general principles & assess medication status

Step 2
Initiate/optimize; check compliance
No response

Step 3
Add-on or switch therapy
No response

Step 4
Add-on or switch therapy
No response

Step 5
Add-on novel or experimental agents


Not on medication or first-line agent

On first-line agent

Initiate lithium, DVP, AAP or 2-drug combinations

Lithium or DVP

Atypical antipsychotic

2-drug combination (lithium or DVP + AAP)

Add or switch to AAP

Add or switch to lithium or DVP

Replace one or both agents with other first-line agents

Replace one or both agents with other first-line agents

Consider adding or switching to second- or third-line agent or ECT

Consider adding novel or experimental agent.

AAP = atypical antipsychotic; DVP = divalproex; ECT = electroconvulsive therapy.

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