

A comparative study of engagement in mobile and wearable health monitoring for bipolar disorder

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Funding information

Heinz C Prechter Bipolar Research Fund; The Richard Tam Foundation; National Institute of Mental Health, Grant/Award Number: K01MH112876 and R34MH100404

Abstract

Objectives: Self-monitoring is recommended for individuals with bipolar disorder, with numerous technological solutions available. This study aimed to identify basic components of these solutions that increase engagement with self-monitoring.

Methods: Participants with bipolar disorder ($n = 47$) monitored their symptoms with a Fitbit and a smartphone app and were randomly assigned to either review or not review recorded symptoms weekly. We tested whether individuals would better adhere to and prefer monitoring with passive monitoring with an activity tracker compared to active monitoring with a smartphone app and whether individuals would better adhere to self-monitoring if their recorded symptoms were reviewed with an interviewer.

Results: Monitoring with a smartphone app achieved similar adherence and preference to Fitbit ($P > .85$). Linear mixed effects modeling found adherence decreased significantly more over the study for the Fitbit (12% more, $P < .001$) even though more participants reported they would use the Fitbit over a year compared to the app (72.3% vs 46.8%). Reviewing symptoms weekly did not improve adherence, but most participants reported they would prefer to review symptoms with a clinician (74.5%) and on monthly basis (57.5%) compared to alternatives. Participants endorsed sleep as the most important symptom to monitor, forgetfulness as the largest barrier to self-monitoring, and raising self-awareness as the best reason for self-monitoring.

Conclusions: We recommend a combined strategy of wearable and mobile monitoring that includes reminders, targets raising self-awareness, and tracks sleep. A clinician may want to review symptoms on a monthly basis.

Trial registration: ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03358238.

KEYWORDS

Bipolar disorder, Fitness Trackers, Monitoring, Physiologic, Smartphone

1 | INTRODUCTION

Bipolar disorder (BP) is a mental illness characterized by pathological mood swings, ranging from mania to depression. The course of BP is unpredictable, often severe, and typically causes major disruption in circadian rhythms and cognitive function^{1,2} which results in chronic

impairment in personal, social, and vocational domains. To reduce these risks, the World Health Organization recommends that individuals with BP monitor their mood, such as keeping a daily log to record mood symptoms.³ Monitoring symptoms is also a prerequisite for measuring mood instability in BP and for delivering interventions that address needs of specific individuals in the moment.⁴⁻⁶ Many

mobile and wearable technologies are available for individuals to self-monitor their symptoms,^{7,12} but engagement is a common problem.¹³⁻¹⁵ This study evaluated engagement strategies for individuals with BP to monitor symptoms longitudinally.

Smartphone apps are the most common technology for interactive self-monitoring symptoms of psychiatric illness. They allow the user to record symptoms at set intervals over time. Individuals with mental illness are generally open to the use of mobile technology, and point to self-awareness and communication between patients and clinicians as reasons for engaging in self-monitoring.^{7,16-18} Visualization of symptom patterns over time may also be considered a specific strategy for increasing engagement.¹⁷ Primarily focused on qualitative information, few studies have provided quantitative evidence for engagement strategies in self-monitoring of BP.

One concern is that individuals may engage in self-monitoring less with smartphone apps when compared to monitoring approaches based on sensors and wearable devices. Smartphone apps require that users *actively* record their symptoms, a burden that may decrease engagement with users preferring more automated ways to record symptoms.⁷ They also involve *subjective* measurements, which may lead to less accurate or less biologically relevant markers of symptoms.^{6,14,16} Sensors and wearable devices allow symptoms to be monitored *passively* and *objectively*. For example, MONARCA,¹⁹ PRIORI,²⁰ and Bi-Affect²¹ use patterns of speech and behavior from recorded calls, keystrokes, number of phone calls, and duration of phone calls to predict mood. Wearable devices, such as activity trackers, also offer direct and indirect measurements of a wide range of clinically important variables of BP such as mood, physical activity, heart rate variability, sleep patterns, and circadian rhythms.^{6,22,23} Yet, it remains unknown whether these passive approaches improve engagement in monitoring compared to active monitoring through smartphone apps.

This study collected quantitative data on engagement in self-monitoring over 6 weeks from individuals with BP ($n = 47$). Passive monitoring was compared to active monitoring with participants using a smartphone app to log symptoms and an activity tracker to track sleep, activity, and heart rate. Participants were randomly assigned to either a review or not review self-reported symptoms. Objective measures of engagement were obtained throughout the study, with subjective measurements obtained at study end. We hypothesized that participants will exhibit better adherence rates and prefer passive monitoring of symptoms than active monitoring. We also hypothesized higher adherence rates for individuals who review recorded symptoms.

2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

The protocol for this study was previously published,²⁴ which contains additional study details. This paper presents the first analysis of data collected under the protocol and focuses on primary outcomes as listed in the protocol. The data that support the findings

of this study are openly available in Mendeley Data at <http://doi.org/10.17632/fsy7m755g6.1> under "Engagement in Mobile and Wearable Health Monitoring for Bipolar Disorder."

2.1 | Participants

A total of 50 individuals with BP were recruited from the Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder²⁵ to participate in a 6-week two-arm randomized control trial. In the Prechter Longitudinal Study of Bipolar Disorder, participants are diagnosed using the Diagnostic Interview for Genetic Studies (DIGS)²⁶ with diagnoses reviewed by two clinicians after initial evaluation and reevaluated when suspected to change based on a clinically relevant event. Each participant used their own smartphone for the study, and no participants were excluded from the study because they did not have a compatible smartphone. This 6-week study was approved by Institutional Review Boards at the University of Michigan (HUM126732) and University of Wisconsin (2017-1322). Written consent was obtained on all individuals.

2.2 | Study design

Participation involved 7 weekly phone interviews and the use of mobile and wearable technology over 6 weeks. Each participant was provided a Fitbit Alta HR to collect information about physical activity, sleep, and heart rate. They also downloaded a smartphone application which prompted the user to log six symptoms each morning and evening: three for mania (increased energy, rapid speech, irritability) and three for depression (depressed mood, fidgeting, fatigue). In addition to logging symptoms, the app also allowed participants to review and visualize information collected from their answers and from the Fitbit. This information was presented to participants in five graphs: (i) a line graph for tracking depressive symptoms over time, (ii) a line graph tracking manic symptoms over time, (iii) a combined line graph and bar graph for tracking sleep over time, (iv) a combined line and bar graph for tracking resting heart rate and total daily step count over time, and (v) a combined line and bar graph for tracking sleep periods and estimated circadian phase." See the protocol paper for details on app development.²⁵ At study start and end, participants were assessed over the phone with a Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS)²⁷ depressive symptoms were assessed with a Structured Interview Guide for the Hamilton Rating Scale of Depression (SIGHD)²⁸; and general health is assessed using the 36-Item Short Form Health Survey (SF-36) developed by RAND.²⁹ At study end, the interviewer also conducted a 17-item survey to assess engagement.²⁴ All participants were interviewed by a trained research technician. In between the start and end of the study, participants were assessed weekly for manic and depressive symptoms using the YMRS and SIGHD. In addition to these assessments, each participant had a 50-50 chance of being randomly assigned to either reviewing data recorded by the Fitbit and app after the weekly assessments (Arm R = Review) or not reviewing this data (Arm NR = No Review). Participants were randomized using block randomization and stratifying by age (<40 years of age vs ≥ 40 years of age) and

sex. Randomization is detailed in the previously published protocol for this study.²⁴

2.3 | Measures of engagement

Primary measures were identified prior to study start: participant preference at end of study based on whether they state they are more likely to use an activity tracker over an app to monitor their symptoms and overall adherence to monitoring with an activity tracker and app. Overall adherence for the app was measured as the proportion of study days with at least 50% of daily self-reports questions completed. The criterion of 50% was chosen to align with future research and clinical goals that would require at least once-a-day recording of symptoms. Overall adherence for the activity tracker was measured as percent study days with at least 12 hours of activity tracking, determined indirectly using total minutes Fitbit measures heartrate. These primary measures of adherence and engagement were accompanied by other responses on the engagement survey to further examine reasons why an individual might monitor their symptoms with either a smartphone or an activity tracker. Daily adherence was also measured based on the proportion of minutes (out of max 1440 minutes) for which the Fitbit was worn, as determined from heartrate information, and proportion of symptoms (out of max 12) logged on the app.

2.4 | Statistical tests

Four hypothesis tests were identified prior to study start to be tested. Binomial tests were used to test hypotheses that (i) participants have equal preference for the app as the Fitbit and (ii) participants have equal overall adherence to the app as the Fitbit. Two-sample *t* tests were used to test hypotheses that mean adherence rate were equal between study arms for the (iii) Fitbit and (iv) app. In addition, 95% Clopper-Pearson confidence intervals were estimated for estimated

proportions using a binomial distribution and 95% confidence intervals were estimated for means using a normal distribution. Linear mixed effects model was constructed for daily adherence. The model included five fixed effects: time (ie, study day), method (Fitbit vs. app), study arm (Arm R vs. Arm NR), age, and sex. The model included a random intercept and random slope for time to account for repeated measurements on each participant. Based on the constructed model, differences in mean daily adherence was estimated as a function of fixed effects with *F*-tests used to measure significance. Significance was considered a *P*-value less than .05.

3 | RESULTS

3.1 | Sample characteristics

The study recruited 50 participants with a diagnosis of BP. Three participants were excluded for not completing the study beyond the first week. One participant died between the consent date and the start of the study, another participant was lost to follow-up between the consent date and study start, and a third participant discontinued participation after the first weekly interview due to discomfort with wearing the Fitbit. The included population were an average (\pm SD) of 41.9 ± 10.8 years of age and 53.1% female. The majority were white (85.1%), not Hispanic (87.2%), and were diagnosed as Bipolar I (80.0%). Study arms did not differ significantly by race, age, sex, ethnicity, or diagnosis ($P > .2$). Sample characteristics are summarized in Table 1.

3.2 | Activity tracker vs smartphone app

Because activity trackers may require less effort than smartphone apps, our initial hypothesis was that participants would better adhere to passive monitoring of their symptoms with an activity

| Variable | Study arm | | χ^2 | df | P |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|----|-----|
| | Review (R) n = 24 | No review (NR) n = 23 | | | |
| Age, years (mean \pm SD) | 41.3 \pm 10.7 | 42.4 \pm 11.2 | 0.12 | 1 | .73 |
| Female (n [%]) | 13 (54.2) | 12 (52.2) | 0.02 | 1 | .89 |
| Race (n [%]) | | | 2.41 | 4 | .66 |
| White | 21 (87.5) | 19 (82.6) | | | |
| Black or African American | 2 (8.3) | 1 (4.3) | | | |
| Asian | 1 (4.2) | 1 (4.3) | | | |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native | 0 (0) | 1 (4.3) | | | |
| More than one | 0 (0) | 1 (4.3) | | | |
| Hispanic (n [%]) | 22 (91.7) | 19 (82.6) | 0.87 | 1 | .35 |
| Diagnosis (n [%]) | | | 3.11 | 2 | .21 |
| Bipolar I | 15 (62.5) | 17 (73.9) | | | |
| Bipolar II | 6 (25) | 6 (26.1) | | | |
| Bipolar NOS | 3 (12.5) | 0 (0) | | | |

TABLE 1 Characteristics of population included in analysis by study arm. participants were randomized to either review (Arm R) or not review (Arm NR) recorded over the study. Arms were balanced for age and sex

tracker as opposed to active monitoring with a smartphone app. However, we found the opposite. Participants spent slightly more days engaging with the app than with the Fitbit in terms of overall adherence: recording at least half of their symptoms with the app for an average (95% CI) of 81.8% (73.1%-90.4%) days in the study compared to wearing their Fitbit at least half of a day for an average of 77.8% (68.1%-87.6%) days in the study (Figure 1A). Based on a binomial test, these differences were not significant ($P = .75$). However, linear mixed effects modeling (see Table A1 in Appendix) found a significant interaction between time and self-monitoring method whereby participants were significantly more likely, by 7.2%, at study start to adhere to monitoring with the Fitbit than with the smartphone app at study start ($P < .001$, $F[1,3916] = 14.1$), but 4.9% less likely at study end ($P = .008$, $F[1,3916] = 7.0$). Figure 1B illustrates differences in adherence by study day, defined as the percent symptoms logged on the day and for the Fitbit was measured for the Fitbit as the percent time Fitbit is worn in a day. Differences from study start to end are explained by a significant decline of 18.1% in Fitbit adherence over the study ($P < .001$, $F[1,3916] = 23.8$) compared to only 6.1% decline in app adherence over the study ($P = .10$, $F[1,3916] = 2.7$). Adherence was not significantly influenced by age or sex at either study start or study end ($P > .3$), but there was a significant interaction between method, time, and age whereby Fitbit adherence decreased a significant 23.4% for participants at 50 years of age ($P < .001$,

$F[1,3916] = 24.1$) compared to 10.2% for participants at 30 years of age ($P = .06$, $F[1,3916] = 3.4$). Further, app adherence decreased a nonsignificant 5.5% for participants at 50 years of age ($P = .25$, $F[1,3916] = 1.3$) and a similar 7.0% for participants at 30 years of age ($P = .21$, $F[1,3916] = 1.6$). In sum, these objective measures suggest that except at study start, participants better adhere to active monitoring with a smartphone app over 6 weeks compared to passive monitoring with an activity tracker.

We also hypothesized participants would prefer passive monitoring with an activity tracker as opposed to active monitoring with a smartphone app (Figure 1C). Indeed, based on participant responses at study end, most participants stated that the Fitbit required significantly less effort than the app (78.7% [64.3%-89.3%]; $P = 1e-4$) and was slightly less complicated to use (59.6% [44.3%-73.6%]; $P = .24$). Yet, they were only slightly more likely to state that they would use the Fitbit over than the app (59.6% [44.3%-73.6%]; $P = .24$). At the same time, participants were slightly more likely to state that they learned less from the Fitbit over the app (44.7% [30.2%-59.9%], $P = .56$) and that the Fitbit did less to improve their emotional health (38.3% [24.5%-53.6%], $P = .14$). Thus except for perception of effort required by either self-monitoring method, there were few meaningful differences in participant preference for an activity tracker over a smartphone app.

In addition to head-to-head comparisons, we examined general attitudes toward using the Fitbit and the app (Figure 1D). Interestingly, 72.3% of participants stated they were willing to use the Fitbit over a

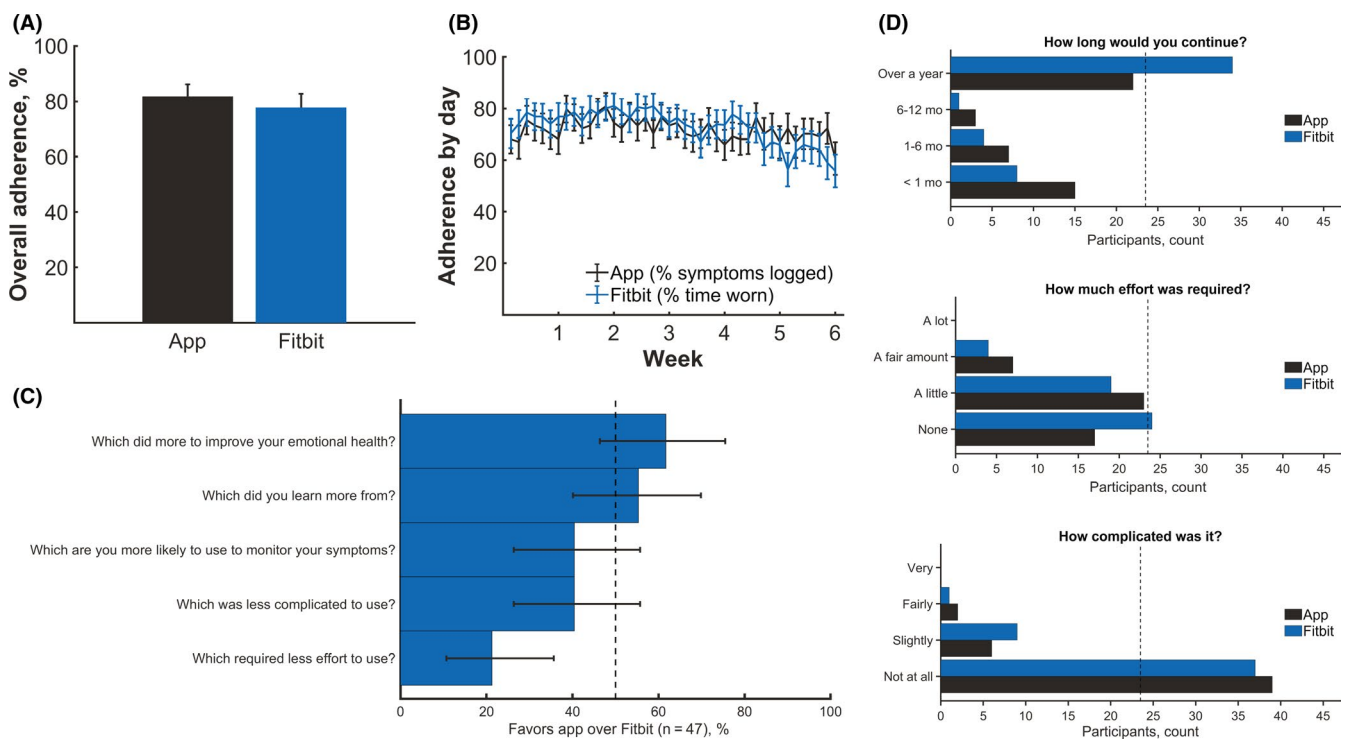
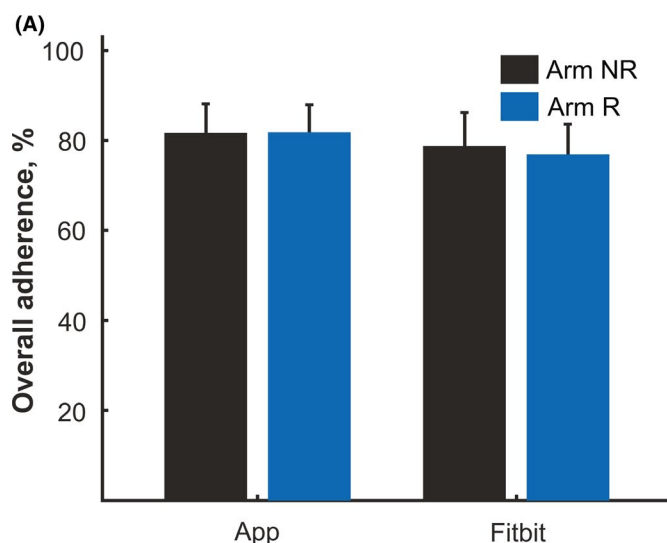


FIGURE 1 Comparison between active monitoring with a smartphone app and passive monitoring with a Fitbit. A, Mean (\pm SE) overall adherence rates across participants was measured for the app and the Fitbit. B, Mean (\pm SE) adherence by study day across participants was measured for the app and the Fitbit. C, End of the study preference across participants with 95% confidence intervals was measured between using an app over the Fitbit. D, Participants reported they would use the Fitbit over a year but not the app, and most participants found that the Fitbit and the app were not at all complicated and required little to no effort [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

year compared to 46.8% for the app, even though adherence rates of the Fitbit declined significantly compared to the app. Moreover, while the Fitbit was perceived to require less effort and was less complicated than the app, most participants (>85%) thought each approach required little to no effort and slightly or not complicated.

3.3 | Reviewing vs not reviewing monitored symptoms

We also hypothesized that reviewing symptoms that a participant recorded over the past week would increase adherence. Based on a two-sample *t* test or linear effects modeling (Table A1), we did not find a main effect of between individuals who were randomly assigned to review their recorded symptoms with an interviewer (Arm R) compared to individuals who did not review their recorded symptoms (Arm NR) ($P > .8$, Figure 2A). However, there were significant interactions in the linear mixed effects model that involved arm (R vs NR), method (Fitbit vs app), age, and sex (male vs. female). As a result, reviewing symptoms (arm R) had a significant positive effect only on app adherence and only for younger women (an estimated 43.0% increase in app adherence for women at 30 years; $P = .001$, $F[1,3916] = 10.5$). By comparison, reviewing symptoms increased Fitbit adherence by a nonsignificant 10.1% for women at 30 years of age ($P = .45$, $F[1,3916] = 0.6$). Moreover, reviewing symptoms had a slight negative effect in men at 30 years of age: decreased app adherence by an estimated 26.0% ($P = .10$, $F[1,3916] = 2.8$) and Fitbit adherence by 24.8% ($P = .11$, $F[1,3916] = 2.5$); and in women at 50 years of age: decreased app adherence by 25.7% ($P = .05$, $F[1,3916] = 3.7$) and Fitbit adherence by 6.8% ($P = .61$, $F[1,3916] = 0.3$). There was a negligible effect on either app or Fitbit adherence for men at 50 years of age ($P > .75$). Thus except for younger women, reviewing symptoms does not increase adherence and may even decrease adherence for other individuals.



Even though reviewing symptoms did not have strong effect on adherence, the majority of participants (57%) reported that they would like to review their recorded symptoms on a monthly basis as opposed to weekly, yearly, or never (Figure 2B). Additionally, the majority of participant (74%) reported that they would like to review their recorded symptoms with a clinician as opposed to a family member, friend, someone with BP, or someone they did not know. These data would suggest that there is a role for a clinician reviewing recorded symptoms with a patient on a monthly basis.

3.4 | Symptom visualization

The app had provided participants with charts and graphs to visualize symptoms, which we thought would improve engagement in self-monitoring. (Figure 3). Most participants stated they would continue to visualize their symptoms for over a year (70.2%) and thought visualization of symptoms was slightly or not complicated (93.6%). Moreover, most participants (63.8%) thought they learned a fair amount or a lot from visualizing their symptoms.

3.5 | Top symptoms, barriers, and uses of self-monitoring

We also asked each participant at study end their top three symptoms, top three barriers, and top three reasons for self-monitoring (Figure 4). The top barrier preventing participants from using technology to monitor their symptoms was forgetfulness, with 55.3% of participants placing this barrier in their top 3. Participants were also asked to identify the symptom or pattern that they would most like to be able to monitor, and 70.2% of participants considered sleep to be one of their top 3 symptom or pattern to monitor. Furthermore, participants were asked what they felt the top

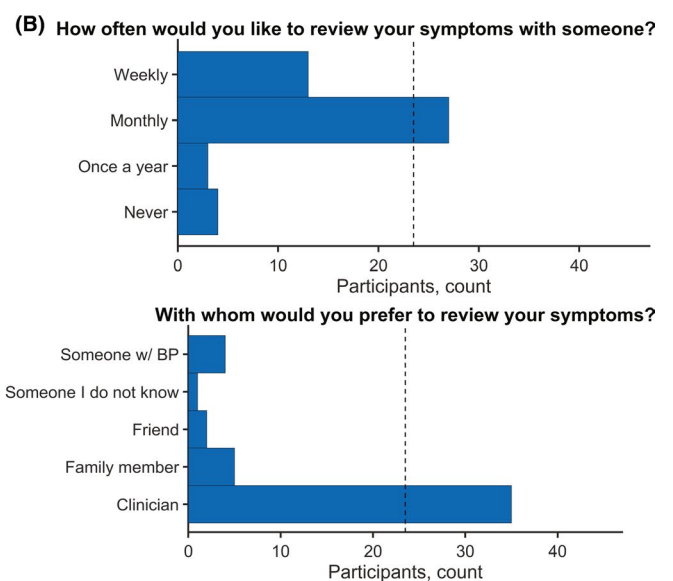


FIGURE 2 Comparison between reviewing recorded symptoms weekly (Arm R) and not reviewing recorded symptoms weekly (Arm NR). A, Mean (\pm SE) overall adherence rates across participants were measured by study arm. B, Most individuals stated they would want to review their symptoms on a monthly basis and preferably with a clinician [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

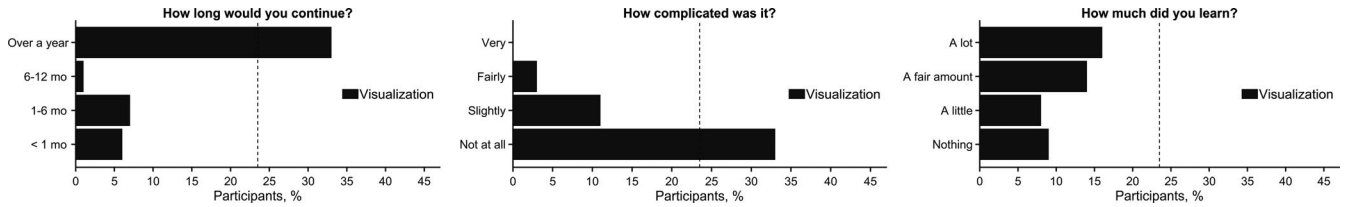


FIGURE 3 Most participants stated they would continue to visualize their symptoms for over a year and thought visualization of symptoms was not complicated but required a fair amount or a lot of effort

use of technology for monitoring their symptoms would be, and the majority responded with to raise self-awareness as a top 3 use (78.7%). The least-endorsed use was to alert someone when they are in trouble. Indeed, most participants felt overall that self-monitoring of symptoms helped them learn a fair amount or a lot about their illness (70.2%) but did not improve or improved very little their emotional health (85.1%). Thus, raising self-awareness appears to be an important target for engaging individuals with BP in self-monitoring.

4 | DISCUSSION

This study tested engagement of individuals with BP in the use of technology for monitoring daily symptoms. Participants tracked symptoms actively by completing self-report assessments on a smartphone app and passively with a Fitbit activity tracker. About 50% participants were randomly assigned to review their recorded symptoms weekly with an interviewer. Engagement strategies of interest were passive monitoring vs active monitoring,

communication of recorded symptoms with an interviewer, visualization, raising self-awareness, among others. In contrast to what we hypothesized, we found mixed reactions and adherence rates between reviewing and not reviewing recorded symptoms and between active and passive monitoring. Reviewing recorded symptoms did not significantly improve adherence rates, but participants still predominately endorsed the idea of reviewing symptoms with a clinician on a monthly basis over alternatives (eg, friend or family member; yearly, weekly, or never). Adherence was slightly higher for the self-report app, particularly at the end of the study, and participants reported they learned more from the study app and that it did more to improve their emotional health. Yet, participants reported that the Fitbit was easier to use and that they were more likely to use the Fitbit.

An explanation for this passive vs. active conflict lies within the participant's responses to other questions at study end. Participants reported the main barrier that would prevent them from using technology to monitor their symptoms was forgetfulness. We speculate that individuals were more likely to remember to keep their smartphone close than remember to wear the

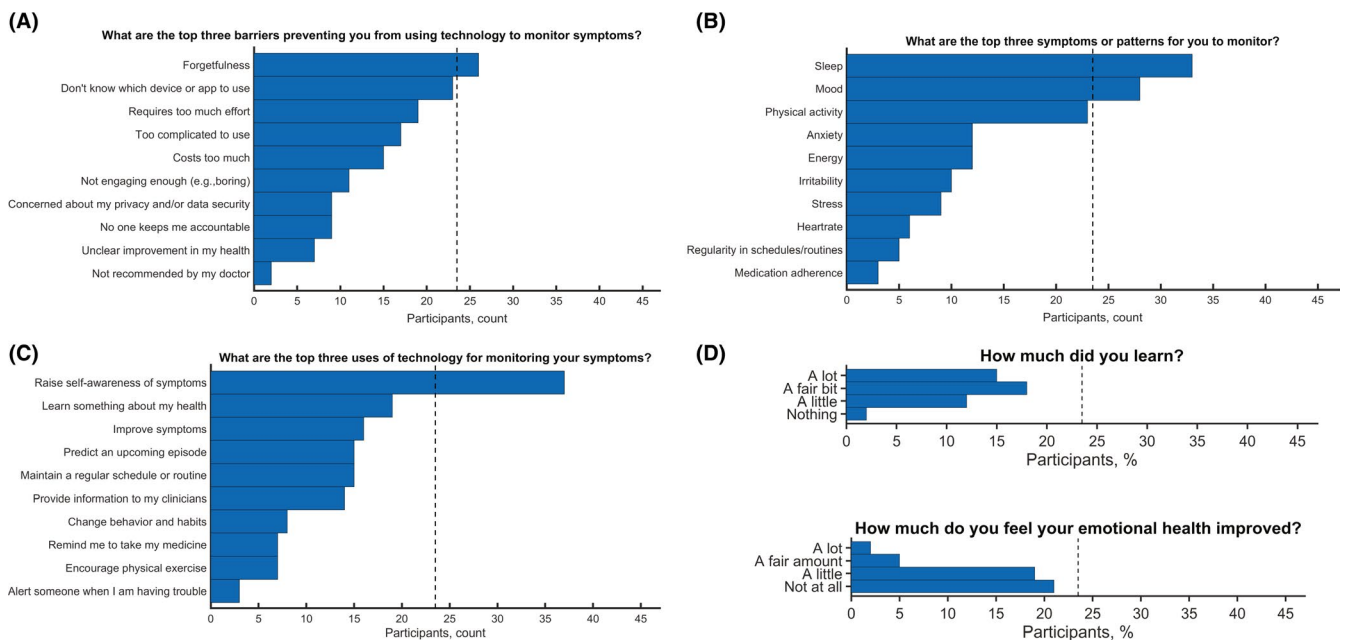


FIGURE 4 Other insights into participant engagement. Top three A, barriers, B, symptoms, and C, uses for monitoring were collected. Forgetfulness was most commonly endorsed barrier, raising self-awareness was most commonly endorsed use, and sleep was the mostly commonly endorsed symptom. D, General attitudes were also collected, with most participants stating that they learn a fair amount or a lot from monitoring but did not feel their emotional health improved [Colour figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

Fitbit. Many individuals already keep their smartphone with them, but we expect fewer individuals have a similar habit of wearing a Fitbit. Furthermore, provided their smartphone is close, then participants were then reminded via push notifications to respond to self-report symptoms through the app. In contrast, participants were not reminded to wear the Fitbit. They might have taken the Fitbit off to shower or charge the device and forget to put the Fitbit back on. Some may have even taken the Fitbit off at night because it is too uncomfortable to wear during sleep. Although participants found the Fitbit required less effort, the questionnaires were intentionally brief (six questions). The smartphone app also contained graphs of participant symptoms, thus checking this progress may further remind participants to complete the self-report questionnaires.

Meanwhile, the data show participants felt the top reason for using technology to monitor symptoms was to raise self-awareness, which is consistent with other studies.^{7,16-18} The study app forces participants to reflect on their symptoms. This active monitoring could raise self-awareness, which is important to participants. The app, however, did not ask about sleep, the most popular symptom or pattern participants wanted to monitor. Sleep was monitored by the Fitbit, but many participants reported to study staff that the sleep patterns they saw using the Fitbit contrasted their own recollection of their sleep. Often realizing their sleep was more restless than they recalled.

Clinicians may thus utilize both an active device, such as a smartphone app, and a passive device, such as a Fitbit, to track their patients' daily symptoms and to review recorded symptoms on a monthly basis. A combined approach provides flexibility depending on the patient's preferences while increasing patient's own self-awareness and allowing for some data collection to require minimal effort. A self-report app should also ask questions about sleep, and automated reminders should accompany any form of passive monitoring, since forgetfulness is the greater barrier.

Another meaningful finding was that most participants reported they learned something about their illness but did not feel their mood improved. There are several possible reasons for this finding. Participants were often euthymic, leaving little room for their mood to improve. Participants who were depressed were sometimes disheartened from monitoring. Monitoring might also exacerbate potential feelings of paranoia in hypomanic or manic mood episodes, as previous studies have found.^{17,18} Another reason may be the short duration of the study. Although monitoring could lead to earlier interventions and a better relationship between the patient and the clinician,¹⁶⁻¹⁸ this study may not have been long enough for improvement to be observed.

However, mobile and wearable monitoring will not benefit all patients the same way. Variation in patient needs calls for flexible systems.¹⁷ For example, reviewing symptoms was found to have a positive effect on engagement only for younger women and only for the app, and Fitbit adherence declined significantly more for individuals at 50 years of age compared to individuals at 30 years of age and compared to the app. Future studies may thus want to focus on reviewing symptoms with young women or provide reminders to

older individuals to wear an activity tracker. Moreover, some participants shared qualitative feedback in this study that they wanted to provide context to mood ratings which would help them reflect on what was going on in their lives. Similar feedback had been given in a prior study.¹⁸ In short, clinicians may want to review with patient after a trial period how they feel about monitoring.

This study has several limitations. The study required participants to utilize mobile and wearable health technology; thus, there was likely a selection bias based on participants' willingness or interest in using smartphone and wearable technology. Another limitation is that an activity tracker was used for passive monitoring, but there are other forms of passive monitoring such as keystrokes, GPS, acoustics, call patterns,¹⁹⁻²¹ which may achieve better adherence rates than an activity tracker because they are collected directly from a smartphone. Another limitation is all participants were assessed weekly, which may dampen the effect of reviewing recorded symptoms on engagement compared to a situation in which only those who reviewed recorded symptoms interacted with an interviewer. In addition, this study had a small number of subjects in each study arm (Review Arm = 24, No-Review Arm = 23) and the sample was majority white and not Hispanic, limiting study findings to other populations. The duration of the study was also short, only 6 weeks long which may not have been enough time to fully examine adherence rates to the technologies in this study over time. Some subjects encountered difficulties in initial set up of Fitbit and study app. Problems that encountered were primarily user error, such as not making sure Bluetooth was turned on to sync Fitbit data, forgetting to download the Fitbit app separately, or not adjusting wake and sleep times in the study app when routines changed, which affected the notifications to complete the self-report questionnaires. Although each of these problems were addressed by the research technician, these could present potential problems outside of a research study if an individual does not have someone checking in on their progress with the technologies. We also did not keep track of whether a participant used an iOS or Android device, which may be an important factor in determining participant engagement. Lastly, our study was also not sufficiently powered to look at individual differences in responses to our engagement at study end, leaving questions about whether there are sex or age differences in user preferences related to engagement.

In conclusion, this study investigated how best to engage individuals with BP in mobile and wearable health monitoring. Overall, adherence rates were high, and the reaction to the mobile health technology was predominantly positive. Insights gained should improve patient experience not only with self-monitoring, but also help develop standardized practices for mobile health research in psychiatry.³⁰ Insights can also be integrated into treatment solutions that use digital health technology such as creating goals,³¹ increasing access³²; and delivering psychosocial interventions.^{33,34} Furthermore, it may not be beneficial to all patients to use technology 24/7, thus it is important to remain flexible and listen to patients' preferences because if they do not feel they benefit from the technology, they will have low motivation to use it.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by Heinz C Prechter Bipolar Research Fund at the University of Michigan Depression Center; the Richard Tam Foundation; and National Institutes of Health (R34 MH100404; K01 MH112876).

DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The data that support the findings of this study are openly available in Mendeley Data at <http://doi.org/10.17632/fsy7m755g6.1> under "Engagement in Mobile and Wearable Health Monitoring for Bipolar Disorder."

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How to cite this article: VanTilK, McInnisMG, CochranA. A comparative study of engagement in mobile and wearable health monitoring for bipolar disorder. *Bipolar Disord*. 2020;22:182-190. <https://doi.org/10.1111/bdi.12849>

APPENDIX

TABLE A1 Results from linear mixed effects modeling of adherence rates as a function of methodology (app vs fitbit), sex, age, study arm (review vs no review), and time. Age was centered around 40 years and has unit decades. Time was scaled to be 0 at study start and 1 at study end. Binary variables were first encoded as Fitbit = 1 and App = 0 for Method, as Female = 1 and Male = 0 for Sex, and Review = 1 and No review = 0 for Arm; and then were centered around their mean

| Name | Estimate | SE | t | df | P | 95% CI | |
|-------------------------|----------|------|------|------|---------|--------|-------|
| | | | | | | Lower | Upper |
| (Intercept) | 72.1 | 3.4 | 21.3 | 3916 | 1.4E-95 | 65.5 | 78.8 |
| Time | -12.1 | 3.3 | -3.6 | 3916 | 3.0E-04 | -18.6 | -5.5 |
| Method | 1.1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 3916 | .22 | -0.7 | 3.0 |
| Age | -2.1 | 3.2 | -0.7 | 3916 | .51 | -8.5 | 4.2 |
| Sex | -1.3 | 6.8 | -0.2 | 3916 | .85 | -14.6 | 12.0 |
| Arm | -4.3 | 6.8 | -0.6 | 3916 | .53 | -17.6 | 9.0 |
| Time:Method | -12.0 | 3.2 | -3.7 | 3916 | 2.1E-04 | -18.4 | -5.7 |
| Time:Age | -2.9 | 3.2 | -0.9 | 3916 | .36 | -9.2 | 3.3 |
| Method:Age | -0.3 | 0.9 | -0.3 | 3916 | .77 | -2.0 | 1.5 |
| Time:Sex | -7.8 | 6.7 | -1.2 | 3916 | .24 | -20.9 | 5.3 |
| Method:Sex | 3.9 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 3916 | .04 | 0.2 | 7.5 |
| Age:Sex | -4.5 | 6.4 | -0.7 | 3916 | .48 | -17.0 | 8.1 |
| Time:Arm | -6.4 | 6.7 | -1.0 | 3916 | .34 | -19.5 | 6.7 |
| Method:Arm | 0.8 | 1.9 | 0.4 | 3916 | .66 | -2.9 | 4.5 |
| Age:Arm | -5.5 | 6.5 | -0.8 | 3916 | .40 | -18.2 | 7.2 |
| Sex:Arm | 11.4 | 13.6 | 0.8 | 3916 | .40 | -15.2 | 38.0 |
| Time:Method:Age | -7.3 | 3.1 | -2.4 | 3916 | .02 | -13.4 | -1.3 |
| Time:Method:Sex | -3.3 | 6.5 | -0.5 | 3916 | .61 | -16.0 | 9.4 |
| Time:Age:Sex | -10.9 | 6.3 | -1.7 | 3916 | .08 | -23.3 | 1.5 |
| Method:Age:Sex | -1.8 | 1.8 | -1.0 | 3916 | .32 | -5.2 | 1.7 |
| Time:Method:Arm | -17.9 | 6.5 | -2.8 | 3916 | .01 | -30.6 | -5.2 |
| Time:Age:Arm | -1.1 | 6.4 | -0.2 | 3916 | .86 | -13.6 | 11.4 |
| Method:Age:Arm | 14.9 | 1.8 | 8.3 | 3916 | 1.0E-16 | 11.4 | 18.4 |
| Time:Sex:Arm | -10.3 | 13.4 | -0.8 | 3916 | .44 | -36.6 | 15.9 |
| Method:Sex:Arm | -6.2 | 3.7 | -1.7 | 3916 | .10 | -13.6 | 1.1 |
| Age:Sex:Arm | -34.1 | 12.8 | -2.7 | 3916 | .01 | -59.2 | -9.0 |
| Time:Method:Age:Sex | -6.5 | 6.1 | -1.1 | 3916 | .29 | -18.5 | 5.5 |
| Time:Method:Age:Arm | -5.0 | 6.2 | -0.8 | 3916 | .42 | -17.1 | 7.1 |
| Time:Method:Sex:Arm | 5.0 | 13.0 | 0.4 | 3916 | .70 | -20.4 | 30.5 |
| Time:Age:Sex:Arm | -24.3 | 12.6 | -1.9 | 3916 | .05 | -49.1 | 0.5 |
| Method:Age:Sex:Arm | 23.5 | 3.5 | 6.6 | 3916 | 3.3E-11 | 16.6 | 30.5 |
| Time:Method:Age:Sex:Arm | -3.5 | 12.2 | -0.3 | 3916 | .77 | -27.6 | 20.5 |