Table 2

Variation in depression symptoms with age[3]

Prepubertal children

- Irritability (temper tantrums, non-compliance)
- Reactive affect
- Somatic complaints
- Frequently comorbid with anxiety, behaviour problems, and ADHD

Adolescents

- Irritability (grumpy, hostile, easily frustrated, angry outbursts)
- Reactive affect
- Hypersomnia
- Increased appetite and weight gain
- Somatic complaints
- Extreme sensitivity to rejection (e.g. falsely perceived put-down or criticism) resulting, for example, in difficulty maintaining relationships

Adults

- Anhedonia
- Lack of affective reactivity
- Psychomotor agitation or retardation
- Diurnal variation of mood (worse in the morning)
- Early morning waking