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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What are anticonvulsants?

Anticonvulsant medications influence the actions of neurotransmitters including glutamate and GABA, leading to a decrease in brain cell (neuron) excitability. Anticonvulsants may be implemented as an immediate therapy for acute symptoms of psychosis, but they may also be used as part of an ongoing treatment regime. Anticonvulsant medication assessed in this topic primarily includes carbamazepine.

What is the evidence for anticonvulsants?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds better response to treatment with antipsychotics than with phenobarbital, a barbituate used as an anticonvulsant, although there were more side effects with antipsychotics. There were also reduced rates of parkinsonism and use of anticholinergic drugs in people receiving carbamazepine compared to antipsychotics alone.

For more information see the technical table

NeuRA
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NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.

Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.

Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.

While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about schizophrenia or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.

HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

We are able to make significant advances due to the generosity of countless people. Your donation allows us to continue to work towards transforming lives. For information on how you can support our research, phone **1300 888 019** or make a secure donation at **neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia**.

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