



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

August 2020

What are dermatoglyphics?

Dermatoglyphics, also referred to as epidermal ridges, are the distinct patterns and lines on the hands and fingers. These ridges appear on the hands between weeks 6 and 15 during foetal development, and remain largely unchanged after this period. Alterations in the patterns and counts of dermatoglyphics may be an indication of disruption to foetal development in the early- to mid-gestation period. A triradius occurs where three ridge systems meet at a point, and occurs four times on the palm, at the base of each of the four digits (a, b, c, and d). Dermatoglyphic indices include: fingertip patterns; finger ridge counts, which are the number of ridges between the center of the fingertip patterns and their corresponding triradius; palmar ridge counts, which are the number of ridges on the palm connecting two triradii; fluctuating asymmetries, which are the differences in ridge counts or pattern types between parallel structures on the left and right hands; and the ATD angle, which is the angle formed by lines drawn from the most remote triradius near the base of the palm, to triradii a and d, located close to the index and little fingers respectively.

What is the evidence for dermatoglyphics?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a medium-sized effect of reduced total ridge count and reduced a-b palmar ridge count in people with schizophrenia compared to controls, with no differences in ATD angle, fingertip pattern asymmetry or ridge count asymmetry.

For more information see the technical table



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.