

HALLE  
DISORGANIZED THOUGHT  
**SCHIZOPHRENIA**  
DISORGANIZED THINKING  
FORMAL MOTOR BEHAVIOR  
DISORGANIZED THINKING  
DISORGANIZED THOUGHT  
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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

August 2020

### What are disorganised symptoms?

Key features of the symptoms of disorganisation include disorganised speech and behaviour, as well as inappropriate affect. Severely disorganised speech is difficult to follow, being incoherent, irrelevant and/or illogical. These symptoms are sometimes referred to as positive formal thought disorder. Disorganised speech may also be deprived of content, which is sometimes referred to as negative formal thought disorder symptoms. Disorganised behaviour includes bizarre or inappropriate behaviour, actions or gestures. Inappropriate (incongruous) affect involves exhibiting incorrect emotional responses for a given context.

Symptoms of disorganisation have been identified as risk factors for poor illness outcome, and have a significant negative effect on a person's day-to-day functioning and quality of life. There is evidence to suggest that disorganisation symptoms may be associated with impaired cognitive performance.

### What is the evidence for disorganised symptoms?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds small to medium-sized associations between positive and negative formal thought disorder and poor cognition in the areas of memory, attention, processing speed, planning, semantic processing, and social cognition. Positive formal thought disorder was particularly associated with poor inhibition and syntactic comprehension, while negative formal thought disorder was particularly associated with poor fluency.

There was a small to medium-sized effect of more formal thought disorder symptoms in people with schizophrenia than in people with bipolar disorder. This effect was significant only in non-acute, stable patients.

High quality evidence shows significant concordance of disorganisation symptoms in siblings with schizophrenia. Low quality evidence suggests unclear concordance in twins with schizophrenia.

For further information see the technical table



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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](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).

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