



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

July 2019

What are minor physical anomalies?

Minor physical anomalies (MPAs) are subtle anatomical deviations that have little functional or aesthetic impact. They may be traced to events occurring prenatally and may represent risk markers for underlying illness susceptibility. MPAs may be important risk indicators when an individual is already at high risk of developing psychosis, for example, having a first-degree relative with psychosis, and when multiple MPAs occur together in one individual.

What is the evidence for minor physical anomalies?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a large increase in overall MPA scores in people with schizophrenia compared to controls. There were also increased MPA scores in people with schizophrenia compared to relatives, with no differences between relatives and controls.

Moderate quality evidence suggests MPA frequency is increased in six regions: head, eyes, ears, mouth, hands and feet. Specific MPAs include tongue with irregular smooth-rough spots, single transverse palmar crease (one crease extending across the palm of the hand), syndactyly (wholly or partially united) 2nd and 3rd toes, malformed ears, low set ears, smaller head circumference, and curved fifth finger.

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.