



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

September 2020

What are movement disorders?

Movement disorders have been reported in people with schizophrenia, with tardive dyskinesia among the most commonly reported. This disorder is a 'hyper-kinetic' (excessive movement) disorder, characterised by jerky, involuntary movements, usually of the face and/or limbs. Parkinsonism is another movement disorder associated with schizophrenia, and is a 'hypo-kinetic' (reduced movement) disorder, characterised by slowness of movement and rigidity. Movement disorders are primarily associated with the use of antipsychotic medications, however they have also been reported in people who are antipsychotic-naïve.

What is the evidence for movement disorders?

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests a large increase in the risk of dyskinesia and parkinsonism in people with schizophrenia compared to people without schizophrenia. There is also a small increase in this risk in first-degree relatives of people with schizophrenia. Moderate to high quality evidence suggests non-white ethnicity and the presence of early movement symptoms is associated with a small to medium-sized increase in the risk of tardive dyskinesia in people with schizophrenia. There was no effect of age, sex, or medication dose on this association. Moderate quality evidence suggests spontaneous movement disorder may occur in antipsychotic-naïve patients, with approximately 17% showing symptoms of parkinsonism, and 9% showing symptoms of dyskinesia.

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.