



NeuRA
Discover. Conquer. Cure.

SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

October 2020

What is the amygdala?

The amygdala is located deep in the medial temporal lobe, and has reciprocal connections with many regions of the cortex, such as prefrontal and cingulate cortex, as well as sub-cortical regions such as the brainstem and hippocampus. The amygdala is implicated in the processing and memory of emotional responses, particularly emotional learning, as well as mediating the autonomic expression of emotion.

What is the evidence for changes in the amygdala in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence found reduced grey matter volume in the amygdala and the amygdala-hippocampus region of people with schizophrenia compared to controls. There were also reductions in the amygdala of first-episode patients and relatives of people with schizophrenia.

Compared to people with bipolar disorder, moderate to low quality evidence finds a medium-sized effect of reduced amygdala volume in people with schizophrenia.

Moderate quality evidence found people with schizophrenia showed increased activity in the amygdala during executive function tasks, and increased or decreased activity during emotion processing tasks.

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.