



## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

October 2020

### What is brain weight?

Brain weight refers to the basic mass measurement of a post-mortem brain, either at time of autopsy ('fresh') or after formalin fixation ('fixed'). Its ease of collection means it is a routine measurement at autopsy and has become a widely used tool for insight into brain integrity. If brain weight is altered, this provides a non-specific indication of neuropathology. It is often a presumed equivalent of the MRI findings of decreased brain volume.

### What is the evidence for brain weight?

Moderate quality evidence suggests the brain of a person with schizophrenia is significantly lower in weight than a healthy brain. Moderate quality evidence suggests that male brain weight is significantly inversely correlated with age at disease onset, such that an earlier age at onset indicated a heavier brain weight.

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