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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### Why compare cognition in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder?

Cognitive deficits are core features of both schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. Establishing differences in cognition between these disorders may be useful for identifying differences in the underlying illness pathologies, and may provide potential targets for individual treatments.

### What is the evidence for cognition in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder?

Moderate to high quality evidence shows small to medium-sized effects of poorer global cognition, executive functioning, social cognition, processing speed, attention, reasoning and problem solving, learning, and memory in people with schizophrenia (including early onset schizophrenia) compared to bipolar disorder (including paediatric bipolar disorder).

There was a medium-sized effect of poorer pre-illness onset cognitive functioning and a large effect of poorer post-illness onset cognitive functioning in people with schizophrenia compared to controls without a mental illness. In people with bipolar disorder compared to controls without a mental illness, there was a small effect of poorer pre-illness onset cognitive functioning and a medium-sized effect of poorer post-illness onset cognitive functioning. People with schizoaffective disorder showed poorer cognitive performance than people with bipolar disorder, but better cognitive performance than people with schizophrenia.

For further 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

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