



# NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

February 2020

### What is genetic and non-genetic risk?

Many disorders are the result of interaction between susceptibility genes and environmental influences. One example is cardiovascular disease; people with a family history of cardiovascular disease are more susceptible to heart problems, and environmental influences, such as diet, can increase this risk. Schizophrenia is also a complex disorder that can arise from both genetic and environmental influences.

### What is the evidence for genetic and non-genetic risk?

Moderate quality evidence from twin studies suggests genetic effects contributing to risk of schizophrenia are much higher than environmental effects, although both factors are involved. Genetic risk scores for schizophrenia are associated with increased symptoms of schizophrenia, particularly negative and disorganised symptoms.

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests a medium-sized increase in prevalence rates of subclinical psychotic symptoms in people with a family history of mental illness. There is a large increased risk of schizophrenia in offspring of people with schizophrenia compared to offspring of people with no mental disorder. There is no increased risk of depression, anxiety, disruptive disorders, substance use disorder, or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in offspring of people with schizophrenia. There is high familial coaggregation of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, with first-degree relatives of people with schizophrenia or bipolar showing an increased risk of developing either disorder.

For more information see the technical table



## NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

*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](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).