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# schizophrenia

## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### How has schizophrenia been defined throughout history?

Positive symptoms of schizophrenia, including hallucinations and delusions, have been described throughout ancient Egyptian, Hindu, Chinese, Greek, and Roman writings. Emil Kraepelin, a German physician, was one of the first to classify schizophrenia using the term "dementia praecox", meaning premature dementia. The term "schizophrenia" was coined by Eugen Bleuler around 1910, and roughly translates to "splitting of the mind", a term not meant to suggest a split personality, but to describe a separation of psychological functions: cognition, percept and affect. Since then, the definition of schizophrenia has continued to change.

### What is the evidence regarding the history of schizophrenia?

Low quality evidence suggests that the general public in ancient Greece and Rome may have had an awareness of psychotic disorders, but no reference is made to a condition that would meet modern diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia. The magnitude of any changes in incidence rates over time is unclear.

For more information see the technical table

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*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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