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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are musculoskeletal and connective tissue abnormalities related to schizophrenia?

People with schizophrenia show increased rates of co-occurring conditions, including various disorders affecting the musculoskeletal system. Common disorders include; osteoporosis and the less severe osteopenia, which occur when bones lose minerals more quickly than the body can replace them, causing a loss of bone thickness; rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus result from a malfunctioning immune system that mistakenly attacks healthy tissue; and ankylosing spondylitis is a type of inflammatory arthritis that mainly affects the spine.

What is the evidence for comorbid musculoskeletal and connective tissue abnormalities?

Moderate quality evidence finds small to medium-sized increased rates of fractures and osteoporosis in people with schizophrenia compared to controls. However, there are reduced rates of rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. No significant differences were found in rates of osteopenia or systemic lupus erythematosus.

For more information see the technical table

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.



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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.