

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

June 2020

What is polydipsia?

Polydipsia is the intake of more than three litres of fluid per day that cannot be better explained by a physical medical condition, but may be due to stress or a compulsive disorder. Polydipsia occurs more frequently in people with a mental illness than in the general population, and has been estimated to occur at rates of between 9-17% in psychiatric inpatients. Polydipsia may be measured through fluid intake, urine or plasma analysis. Severe polydipsia may lead to insufficient sodium in the body, which may cause coma or even death. As such, it is important to understand prevalence rates and potential treatments for polydipsia in people with schizophrenia.

What is the evidence for comorbid polydipsia?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests people with schizophrenia have increased rates of polydipsia. Low quality evidence is unable to determine the pharmacological effects of demeclocycline or naloxone for psychosis-related polydipsia.

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.