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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are postoperative complications related to schizophrenia?

The postoperative period starts from the time patients are transferred to the post-anaesthesia unit, until they are released from hospital. Postoperative complications may occur more frequently in people with schizophrenia. This may stem from disorganised thinking and functional difficulties that may affect the ability to recognise and communicate medical symptoms. Consequently, patients may be admitted for treatment at a later stage of the physical illness leading to increased risk of medical complications following surgery.

What is the evidence for comorbid postoperative complications?

Moderate quality evidence suggests people with schizophrenia who have recently undergone surgery may show increased risk of mortality, respiratory failure, deep venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism, sepsis, and confusion (particularly if antipsychotics are discontinued) compared to people without schizophrenia. They may also report less pain and receive fewer postoperative analgesics.

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

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.