

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

March 2019

What is reasoning?

Reasoning refers to the ability to logically gather information to form conclusions and solve problems. People with schizophrenia may show impaired reasoning, with bias in the way they gather information, interpret events and develop beliefs. Reasoning bias is measured in three ways: “jumping to conclusions” (JTC) is when a decision is made after little information is gathered; belief inflexibility is an inability to change a belief even when presented with contradictory evidence; and attribution bias is when available evidence is incorrectly used to attribute negative or positive events to internal or external causes.

What is the evidence for reasoning?

High quality evidence shows a small association between poor reasoning ability and severity of negative symptoms. Moderate quality evidence also suggests an association with severity of disorganised symptoms and, to a lesser extent, severity of reality distortion symptoms. High quality evidence shows a medium-sized association between better social problem solving and social skills and better reasoning ability. Greater community functioning and better social behaviour show a weaker association with better reasoning ability. Moderate quality evidence suggests medium to strong associations between poor reasoning ability and problem solving, and poor verbal learning, processing speed, working memory, attention and vigilance, and verbal fluency. There are weaker associations with poor emotion perception, social perception, facial recognition and emotion processing. Moderate to high quality evidence suggests no difference in reasoning and problem solving ability in people with schizophrenia taking second generation antipsychotics compared to those taking first generation antipsychotics. Moderate quality evidence suggests better problem solving and reasoning ability is found in people with schizophrenia with a cannabis use disorder compared to people with schizophrenia without any substance use disorder.

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.