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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

What is schizophreniform disorder?

Schizophreniform disorder is a part of the schizophrenia spectrum of disorders and has sometimes been used as a provisional diagnosis while waiting to see if symptoms improve by six months or progress, resulting in a diagnosis of schizophrenia. DSM-5 requires at least one of the following symptoms is present for a significant portion of the time during a one-month period, but for less than six months: delusions, hallucinations or disorganised speech. Disorganised behaviour (e.g. catatonia) or negative symptoms (e.g. social withdrawal) may also be present. There can be no manic, depressive or mixed manic-depressive episodes, and any mood disturbance must have been present for minority of the time. The symptoms cannot be due to the effects of a substance or due to a medical or neurological disorder.

What is the evidence for schizophreniform disorder?

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests the rate of a schizophrenia diagnosis following a diagnosis of schizophreniform disorder is around 65% by about four years. The rate of first-episode psychosis patients retaining a diagnosis of schizophreniform disorder over time is around 29%.

NeuRA

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.

For further 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**.

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