



# NeuRA

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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### What is dual diagnosis?

Many treatments have been targeted to improving symptom severity for people suffering schizophrenia in combination with substance use problems. Studies of dual diagnosis often investigate the effectiveness or availability of treatments for improving outcomes relating to either diagnosis, for example symptom severity, social function, quality of life, substance use, or cognitive outcomes.

### What is the evidence for treatments for dual diagnosis?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests olanzapine may be effective for reducing cocaine use in people with schizophrenia. Low quality evidence is unable to determine the benefits of risperidone for cannabis use, risperidone, haloperidol, chlorpromazine, aripiprazole, or mazindol for cocaine use, and lamotrigine, antidepressants, anti-craving agents, or disulfiram for substance-dependence.

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](http://neura.edu.au/donate/schizophrenia).