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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is late-onset schizophrenia?

Studies of the life course of schizophrenia suggest that positive symptoms tend to reduce with time, while negative symptoms, such as social withdrawal and emotional apathy, increase with time. In contrast, people with late-onset schizophrenia (onset after 40 years of age) and very late-onset schizophrenia (onset after 60 years of age) tend to have predominant positive symptoms and fewer negative symptoms.

This summary table includes both elderly people with chronic schizophrenia, and people who have been diagnosed with late-onset or very late-onset schizophrenia.

What is the evidence for treatments for older people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a medium-sized benefit for overall symptoms, particularly negative symptoms, with olanzapine than with haloperidol in people with schizophrenia who are over 46 years of age. There were no significant differences in symptoms for older patients between amisulpride and risperidone, chlorpromazine and clozapine, olanzapine and risperidone or quetiapine and risperidone.

There were fewer drop-outs with olanzapine than with risperidone, less prolactin increase with olanzapine than with haloperidol or risperidone, and less antiparkinson medication with olanzapine than with haloperidol. There were no differences in weight gain between these three agents.

For more 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/schizophrenia.



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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.