



# NeuRA

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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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### How is mortality related to antipsychotic use?

Compared to the general population, on average, the life expectancy of people with schizophrenia may be reduced by as much as 15-20 year. The reasons for increased mortality in schizophrenia are largely unclear, but may in part be related to lifestyle factors such as weight gain, smoking, unhealthy diet and low physical activity levels. Adverse effects of antipsychotics may also contribute to high mortality rates in schizophrenia.

### What is the evidence for mortality as a side effect of antipsychotic use?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a medium-sized effect of fewer deaths in people with schizophrenia taking any antipsychotic than in people with schizophrenia not taking antipsychotics.

Moderate quality evidence finds no differences in all-cause mortality or suicide rates between people with schizophrenia who are on long-acting injectable antipsychotics, oral antipsychotics or placebo. There were no significant differences in rates according to antipsychotic type (first vs. second generation), study duration, industry vs. non-industry trials, illness status (acute vs. other), or antipsychotic dose.

Moderate to high quality evidence suggests the mortality rate in people taking clozapine over the long-term (up to 12 years) is 6.7, which is lower than for patients taking other antipsychotics.

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).