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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is neuroleptic malignant syndrome?

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome is a rare and life-threatening reaction to neuroleptic use and has been linked to first generation antipsychotics in particular. It is generally characterised by muscular rigidity, tremor, fever, autonomic nervous system dysfunction, and alterations in one's level of consciousness. It may become apparent soon after commencing antipsychotic use or when dose is increased and should be treated as a medical emergency.

What is the evidence for neuroleptic malignant syndrome?

Moderate to low quality evidence is unable to determine the prevalence of neuroleptic malignant syndrome with any particular antipsychotic use. However, review authors conclude that second generation antipsychotics are not free of the risk of neuroleptic malignant syndrome.

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests no recurrence of neuroleptic malignant syndrome with clozapine treatment following an episode of neuroleptic malignant syndrome.

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.



NeuRA

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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.