



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

April 2022

How do parental psychological factors relate to risk for schizophrenia?

Exposure to maternal psychological factors such as stress, depression, or psychosis during pregnancy, may be linked to risk of schizophrenia in the offspring. The mechanisms by which these factors influence risk of schizophrenia is unclear, however genetic predisposition and/or inflammatory processes caused by stress may be involved.

What is the evidence for parental psychological factors during pregnancy?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests medium-sized effects of increased risk of schizophrenia spectrum or non-affective psychoses following exposure to any parental psychopathology or overall maternal stress during pregnancy. Risk was highest with exposure to maternal psychosis. There was no association with death of a close relative or exposure to other catastrophic events (unspecified).

For more information see the technical table



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.