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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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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 quality evidence suggests a medium-sized effect of increased risk of schizophrenia in offspring of mothers or fathers who had psychosis during the 24th-28th gestational week of pregnancy.

There were no effects on risk of schizophrenia in offspring of mothers with depressed mood during pregnancy, or of mothers exposed to stressful events during pregnancy (death of a husband, unwantedness of pregnancy, military conflicts, or flood disaster).

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 enefits 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.