



NeuRA

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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is epilepsy?

People with schizophrenia may show increased rates of co-occurring conditions. These include epilepsy, which is a neurological disorder characterised by recurrent seizures. There are several types of seizures; focal or partial seizures are subtle and may go unnoticed as mild activity starts in one area of the brain and can spread to other areas. Generalised seizures are more severe, involve both hemispheres simultaneously and result in loss of consciousness. There are also 'epileptic spasms' that are of unknown origin.

What is the evidence for epilepsy?

Moderate quality evidence suggests the prevalence rate of schizophrenia or interictal psychosis in people with epilepsy is around 5.4%, which is higher than general population rates (around 1%). Interictal psychosis is a schizophrenia-like psychosis that would fulfil diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia if epilepsy was not present.

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.