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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How is constipation related to schizophrenia?

Some antipsychotics cause constipation. Moreover, people with schizophrenia often have pre-existing factors that increase this risk, including sedentary lifestyle, obesity, reduced fibre intake, and dehydration. Constipation can lead to gastrointestinal problems and even death. This topic assesses the risk of constipation as a side effect of antipsychotic use.

What is the evidence for constipation in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests the overall prevalence of constipation with clozapine use is around 30%, and around 40% in inpatient settings. Moderate to high quality evidence suggests a medium-sized effect of clozapine causing higher rates of constipation than most other antipsychotics, in particular olanzapine.

For more information see the technical table



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.

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.