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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are skin disorders related to schizophrenia?

People with schizophrenia often show increased rates of co-occurring conditions, including skin disorders. Psoriasis is a long-term autoimmune condition that accelerates the life cycle of skin cells. This allows cells to build up on the surface of the skin, which form scales and red patches that are often itchy and painful. Pemphigoid is a rare autoimmune disorder that can develop at any age, but is most often seen in elderly patients. It results in skin rashes and blistering on the legs, arms, and abdomen. Alopecia areata is another autoimmune disease, but rather than affecting the skin directly, it is characterised by non-scarring hair loss on the scalp, face or body. Hidradenitis suppurativa is a chronic inflammatory skin disorder of the hair follicles, characterized by recurrent lesions affecting the apocrine glands including nodules, abscesses, fistulas and draining sinus tracts.

What is the evidence for skin disorders in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate quality evidence finds small increases in rates of psoriasis and pemphigoid in people with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, with no differences in rates of alopecia areata.

High quality evidence finds people with hidradenitis suppurativa had higher rates of schizophrenia than people without hidradenitis suppurativa. They also had higher rates of schizophrenia than people with psoriasis.

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.