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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are family relationships related to risk for schizophrenia?

Familial high expressed emotion involving hostility, emotional over-involvement and critical comments has been associated with increased psychotic relapse in people with schizophrenia, so these traits may contribute to the development of psychotic symptoms in vulnerable individuals. Negative parental affective style involving guilt induction, over-intrusiveness and personal criticism, as well as a lack of communication clarity may also contribute to increased risk of schizophrenia.

What is the evidence for family relationships?

Moderate quality evidence suggests a large effect of high communication deviance (lack of clarity) in parents of people with schizophrenia. Moderate to low quality evidence suggests there may also be poor relationships with parents, family instability, negative affective style, and more expressed emotion.

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 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.

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