



SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

February 2021

What is optical coherence tomography (OCT)?

OCT is an imaging technology that assesses the thickness of the peripapillary retinal nerve fibre layer, macular thickness, and volume. It has been used to assess neurologic diseases such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease, and more recently, schizophrenia.

What is the evidence for OCT?

Moderate quality evidence finds a medium-sized effect of thinner overall peripapillary retinal nerve fibre layer thickness in people with schizophrenia compared to controls. There were small effects of thinner nasal and temporal peripapillary retinal nerve fibre layers as well as thinner ganglion cell + inner plexiform layers in patients. There were no significant differences in superior or inferior retinal nerve fibre layers or in choroidal or macula thickness and volume.

For more information see the technical table



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.