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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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How are obstetric complications related to risk of schizophrenia?

Obstetric complications are a broad class of deviations from a normal course of events experienced during pregnancy, labour, delivery and the early neonatal period. Studies have attempted to investigate whether any deviation or combination of deviations are related to the subsequent development of schizophrenia.

What is the evidence for obstetric complications?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a large effect of increased odds of schizophrenia with exposure to maternal diabetes in utero. There were medium-sized effects of birth weight <2,000g, congenital malformations, uterine atony, Rhesus variables (comprising rhesus incompatibility, rhesus-negative mother and rhesus antibodies), and a small effect of bleeding in pregnancy. Moderate quality evidence also found a small effect of preeclampsia, and moderate to low quality evidence found small effects of asphyxia and birth weight <2,500g. Review authors state that uncontrolled confounding variables may account for some of the associations observed.

For obstetric complications in general, moderate quality evidence finds a medium-sized increased risk of ultra high-risk mental states and a small increased risk of schizophrenia compared to bipolar disorder.

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.