



# NeuRA

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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 quality evidence found medium-sized increased risk of psychotic disorders in general (mostly schizophrenia spectrum or non-affective psychosis) following exposure to congenital malformation or polyhydramnios. There were small effects of maternal hypertension, pre-eclampsia or toxæmia, hypoxia, ruptured membranes, blood loss in pregnancy (but not during labour), rhesus-associated factors and incompatibility, asphyxic state, low birth weight (<3000g), gestational age <37 weeks, and birth length <49cm. No associations were found for placental complications, caesarean section, prolonged labour, induced labour, instrument delivery, abnormal presentation, cephalopelvic disproportion, baby being kept in hospital or special care, need for incubator, non-spontaneous delivery, uterine atony, 5min apgar score <7, umbilical cord complications, abnormal fetal heart rate/ rhythm, or ponderal index.

Compared to people with bipolar disorder, moderate quality evidence finds a medium-sized increased risk of ultra high-risk mental states and a small effect of increased risk of schizophrenia following exposure to any obstetric complication.

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](http://neura.edu.au/donate).

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