



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

SCHIZOPHRENIA LIBRARY

AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

May 2019

What are autoimmune diseases?

People with schizophrenia may show increased rates of co-occurring conditions. Autoimmune diseases are caused by an overactive immune system. Some of the more common autoimmune diseases include; celiac disease where the immune system reacts to gluten found in wheat and other grains; lupus, which affects skin, muscles, joints, lungs, heart and kidneys; rheumatoid arthritis, where bone and cartilage are damaged; Graves' disease, where the thyroid gland is overactive; multiple sclerosis, where the nervous system is affected; type 1 diabetes, where the pancreas does not produce enough insulin to manage blood sugar levels.

What is the evidence for autoimmune disease in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence finds a small increased risk of non-neurological autoimmune disorders in people with schizophrenia, in particular anemia, celiac disease, Graves' disease, pemphigoid, and psoriasis. Rates of schizophrenia were also increased in people with celiac disease. Rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis were reduced in people with schizophrenia, and there were no differences in rates of polymyalgia rheumatic, alopecia areata, Crohn's disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type 1 diabetes, or ulcerative colitis.

For more information see the technical table



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

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.