



# NeuRA

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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

October 2020

### What is GABA?

GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) is the most important inhibitor of neurotransmitters in the central nervous system and is often dysfunctional in people with mood disorders. It has also been investigated in people with schizophrenia. GABA can be measured via peripheral levels in plasma, via central levels in cerebrospinal fluid, and in brain regions using magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS). Possible GABA dysfunction has led to interest in GABA-acting medications as possible adjunctive treatments for schizophrenia, such as baclofen, progabide, and sodium valproate.

### What is the evidence for GABA?

Moderate quality evidence finds no differences in GABA levels in the medial frontal cortex, parietal/occipital cortex and the striatum of the basal ganglia of people with schizophrenia compared to controls, as measured by MRS.



## 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.*

For more information see the technical table

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