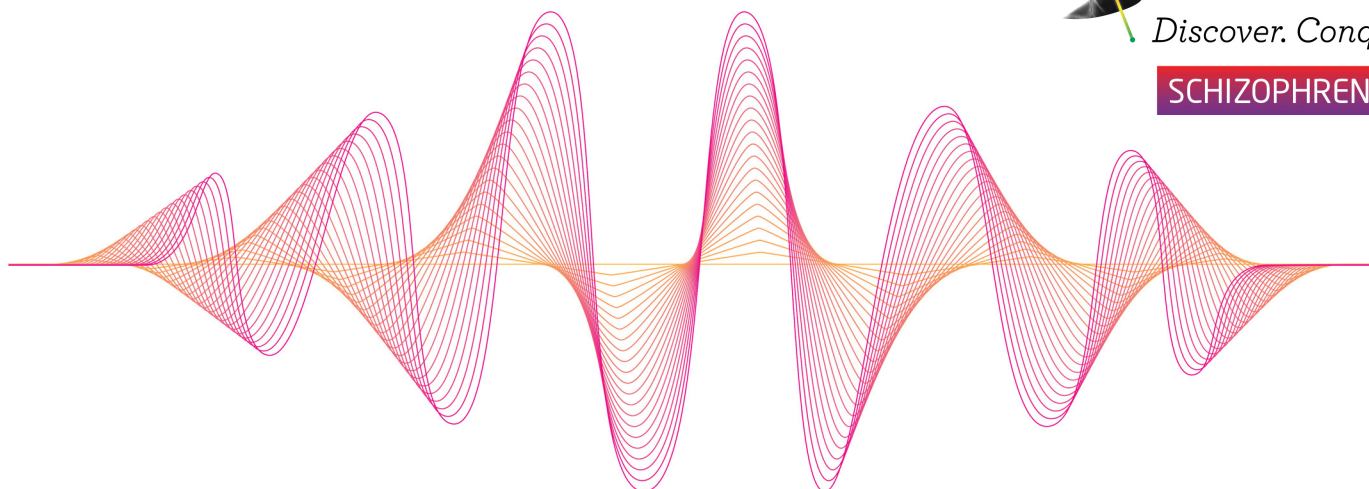




# NeuRA

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## SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

February 2022

### How are voice patterns relevant to schizophrenia?

Some people with schizophrenia display atypical voice patterns. Some atypical voice patterns have been associated with the negative symptoms of schizophrenia, including blunted affect (lack of vocal intonation) and alogia (poverty of speech). Clarifying vocal abnormalities in people with schizophrenia may help support the assessment of cognitive and clinical features related to the disorder.

### What is the evidence for changes in voice patterns?

Moderate quality evidence found large effects of longer pauses and less spoken time in people with schizophrenia when compared to controls. There were medium-sized effects of lower speech rate and less pitch variability. No differences were found in pitch, intensity variability, duration of utterance, or number of pauses.

Significant correlations were found in patients between lower pitch and more positive symptoms, less pitch variability and more flat affect, less time spoken and more alogia, and more duration of pauses and more negative symptoms in general.

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