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SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

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What is vascular endothelial growth factor?

Vascular endothelial growth factor is a signal protein that stimulates blood vessel development and repair. Overexpression of can cause vascular disease, diabetes, and some cancers. It also plays a role in neuroprotection and regeneration of central nervous system cells and stimulates axonal outgrowth and neuronal differentiation. It is involved in neuronal regeneration after brain injury and in the forming of new neurons in the adult brain.

What is the evidence for vascular endothelial growth factor levels in people with schizophrenia?

Moderate to high quality evidence found higher levels of vascular endothelial growth factor in medicated, multiple-episode patients but not in first-episode patients or in those who were antipsychotic-naïve.

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/schizophrenia.