

SCHIZOPHRENIA Factsheet

October 2020

What is sexual dysfunction?

Sexual dysfunction can take many forms, but affects both men and women, and can have far-reaching implications on self-esteem, quality of life, and relationships, as well as considerably reducing medication compliance should they cause sexual dysfunction. This table outlines the prevalence and causes of sexual dysfunction in people with schizophrenia. Please also see the relevant pharmaceutical treatment topic.

What is the evidence for sexual dysfunction?

Moderate to low quality evidence finds high levels of sexual dysfunction in both men and women with schizophrenia (between 25% and 85%). Factors associated with sexual dysfunction were increased symptom severity (positive, negative, and depressive symptoms, early age at onset, and continuous illness course), first-generation antipsychotics in general, the second-generation antipsychotic risperidone, and antipsychotic polytherapy.

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.

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.