



NeuRA

Discover. Conquer. Cure.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER LIBRARY

Diagnosis

Conversion disorder

©shidlovski - stock.adobe.com

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER Factsheet

August 2021

What is conversion disorder?

Conversion disorder, also known as functional neurological disorder, is a mental disorder characterised by symptoms that cannot be explained by any known neurological disease. The condition is often triggered by psychological or physical stress, but this is not always the case. The symptoms include weakness and/or paralysis, non-epileptic seizures, movement disorders, speech or visual impairment, difficulty swallowing, sensory disturbances, or cognitive symptoms. These symptoms can cause significant distress and functioning problems.

What is the evidence for PTSD and conversion disorder?

Moderate quality evidence finds a medium-sized effect of increased rates of PTSD in people with non-epileptic seizures compared to people with epileptic seizures. Review authors suggest traumatic experiences may be a common risk factor for both PTSD and non-epileptic seizures. There were no reviews found that assessed other conversion disorder symptoms.



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 PTSD and 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

NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) Foundation
T 1300 888 019 F +61 2 9399 1082
ABN 57 008 429 961

Margarete Ainsworth Building
Barker Street, Randwick NSW 2031
PO Box 1165 Randwick Sydney NSW 2031 Australia

neura.edu.au