

Schizophrenia

A persistent and often disabling mental illness affecting how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. While the exact cause is unknown, research indicates a combination of genetics, brain chemistry, and environment contribute to the development of schizophrenia and individual variation of symptoms.

Measuring the impact of schizophrenia

Given the nature of the symptoms, schizophrenia can affect all areas of people's lives and is one of the **top 15 leading causes of disability worldwide.**²

Signs and symptoms of schizophrenia usually first appear in **teenage years or early adulthood.**³

As such, people living with schizophrenia often struggle to meet expected developmental **adult milestones** such as maintaining employment, independent living, and managing relationships.

This can have a detrimental impact, with an **increased likelihood of homelessness, poverty, and inadequate self-care.**¹

The **estimated potential life lost is almost 30 years** compared with the general population, which is largely attributed to comorbidities such as heart disease, diabetes, and liver disease, which often remain undetected and undertreated.⁴

The **financial burden caused by schizophrenia is disproportionately high** compared with other chronic conditions.⁴

Unfortunately, many people living with schizophrenia are also **burdened by the stigma associated with mental health conditions.**

Affects approximately

24 million people worldwide¹

Schizophrenia is comprised of three symptom domains:



Positive

Hallucinations, delusions, and difficulty organizing and expressing thoughts



Negative

Difficulty enjoying life and withdrawal from others



Cognitive

Deficits in memory, concentration, and decision making

Treatments exist, but differentiated options are needed

While there is no cure for schizophrenia, there are treatments available that focus on managing symptoms and navigating challenges related to day-to-day functioning, such as medications and psychosocial support.

ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATIONS are the most commonly prescribed treatment.

While there are differences among antipsychotic therapies, all currently available treatments work primarily through a dopamine receptor blocking mechanism.



While current antipsychotic therapies can be effective in managing positive symptoms - like hallucinations and delusions - they may not fully address persistent negative symptoms or cognitive difficulties. Often, available treatments are limited by side effects (e.g., movement disorders, sedation, weight gain, and other metabolic side effects).⁵



~75% of patients discontinue treatment in the first 18 months due to many failing to find an effective and/or tolerable treatment.⁵

30-60%

of patients with schizophrenia experience a partial or inadequate improvement or unacceptable side effects during therapy.⁶

Although many people living with schizophrenia have difficulty finding a safe and effective treatment, with the help of a dedicated care team, **it is possible for people with schizophrenia to live full lives.**

To learn more about Karuna's commitment to people living with psychiatric and neurological conditions, visit karunatx.com.

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