

# Schizophrenia

## Biological causes, Treatment, and Symptoms

**1%** of people are affected *worldwide*<sup>2</sup>



Symptoms occur around the *age of* **20**

but onset varies between males and females<sup>2</sup>

Non-pharmaceutical treatments include psychosocial therapy, institutionalization, care from a psychiatric nurse, a social worker, and many more options<sup>3</sup>

Antipsychotics have been found to successfully treat positive symptoms such as hallucinations, as they target Dopamine neurotransmitters<sup>3</sup>

## Treatment Options

## Proposed Causes

**Genetics** have been shown to play a role in development of Schizophrenia, but do not account for the entire illness. An individual has a 40% chance of developing Schizophrenia if both parents have it.<sup>4</sup> One's **Environment** has been found to have links to increased chances of Schizophrenia, such abnormalities in early prenatal development. **Brain Chemistry** complications with neurotransmitters such as Dopamine and Glutamate have also been connected to Schizophrenia. Some research has also shown a relationship between **hallucinogen drug abuse** in teenage years and development of schizophrenia<sup>2</sup>

Second Generation Antipsychotics have been found to be just as successful as first generation antipsychotics, but with fewer side effects. (Ex. Aripiprazole)<sup>3</sup>



## Symptoms

- +** Hallucinations, Delusions, Disorganized Speech. Tardive Dyskinesia
- Reduced Socialization, Weak display or feelings of emotion

*Symptoms of Schizophrenia are described as either Positive or Negative, depending on their nature. Positive Symptoms include aspects of an individual's life that are "extra/added on" to what the "normal" person experiences. Negative Symptoms include lack of or absence of behaviors that an individual should have. Only positive symptoms can be treated successfully<sup>1</sup>*

# References

<sup>1</sup>”Schizophrenia; Signs & Symptoms” - National Institute of Mental Health

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/schizophrenia/index.shtml> This article scored a 2 on authority, because it is a “.gov” website, and is located on the National Institute of Mental Health’s website. This source focused on the genetic link that schizophrenia has, and outlined the risk an individual has for developing schizophrenia if both parents have it. The article presents valid data points through a literature review. I scored this source with a 2 on motivation, as it has been published in the US National Library of Medicine, validating its purpose to inform the public on correct data. I also gave it a 2 on reliability, as it cites valid sources to peer reviewed articles, and provides information that is nearly exact to other sources on the topic. Overall, this source provided valid information and provides the sources used in a credible manner, so I find it reliable.

<sup>2</sup> “Schizophrenia” (Fact Sheet) March 2015 - National Alliance on Mental Illness

<https://www.nami.org/NAMI/media/NAMI-Media/Images/FactSheets/Schizophrenia-FS.pdf>

This article got a score of 2 on authority, as it was published from a National Alliance of Mental Illness. The fact sheet provides valid information fluent with data collected from other sources, but received a 1 on reliability because there were no sources besides the whole NAMI website listed. The motivation of this page is obvious in that it’s sole purpose is to provide valid information on schizophrenia, as there are no signs for promoting/debunking medication or any type of treatment and is also a 2 on the scale. This fact sheet focused on the possible causes of schizophrenia, including genetic, environmental, brain chemistry, and drug use factors.

# References (Cont.)

<sup>3</sup>“Schizophrenia Diagnosis & Treatment” Mayo Clinic

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/schizophrenia/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20354449>

This article is a 2 on authority, as it is a well known website/source (Mayo Clinic). The content of the source is informational and gives it a 2 on motivation, as it does not promote anything or give opinion. It also got a 2 in reliability, as it clearly cites sources in which the information was derived from. The Mayo Clinic outlines the possible treatments, including pharmaceuticals, and differentiates between first and second generation antipsychotics. It also discusses non medicinal treatments, including different types of therapy and rehab.

<sup>4</sup>“The Children of Mentally Ill Parents” Dtsch Arztebl Int. 2008 Jun; 105(23): 413–418. Published online 2008 Jun 6. doi: 10.3238/arztebl.2008.0413 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2696847/> This source focused on the genetic link that schizophrenia has, and outlined the risk an individual has for developing schizophrenia if both parents have it. This source scores a 2 on its authority, as it is a .gov website, and was published in the US National Library of Medicine - National Institutes of Health. The motivation of the literature review is also clearly for educational purposes, as the information provided is non-opinion based, and has no underlying motive therefore scoring a 2 on motivation. The reliability is a 2 as well, as it cites many sources throughout the text with factual information.