

What Do I Need to Know About Schizophrenia?

What is it?

Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness that affects how a person thinks, feels, and behaves. People with schizophrenia experience loss of contact with reality (psychosis), hallucinations (usually, hearing voices), delusions, disorganized thinking and behavior, lack of energy and drive, decline in mental function (cognition), and problems in daily functioning. Contrary to popular perception, people with schizophrenia do not have “split” or multiple personalities. If left untreated, the symptoms can be persistent and disabling. However, with early detection and treatment, the lives of people with the condition can be substantially improved.



Did you know?

Schizophrenia is **MORE** common than Alzheimer disease and multiple sclerosis.

Who is at risk?

- Affects about 1% of the population
- 1:1 gender ratio
- Symptoms most frequently begin in teenage years or the 20's (slightly later for women)



Brain
Chemistry



Environment



Genetics



Substance
Abuse

Causes?

What are the signs and symptoms?



Delusions



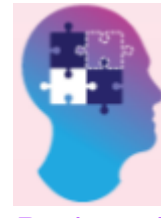
Hallucinations



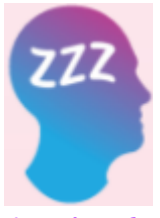
Disorganized
speech



Flattened
Affect



Reduced
Speech



Lack of
Initiative

Diagnosis and treatment?

There is no test and cure for schizophrenia. Diagnosis is based on individual assessment by a healthcare provider. People with schizophrenia require a lifelong treatment. Treatment will vary for each individual.

Basic treatments include:

- Antipsychotic Medications
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBY)
- Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC)
- Family Education and Support
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)



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