

Schizophrenia:

Schizophrenia is a severe long-term mental health condition. It causes a range of different psychological symptoms.

Schizophrenia may result in some combination of hallucinations, delusions, and extremely disordered thinking and behavior that impairs daily functioning, and can be disabling.

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Symptoms:

- Constant delusions: the person believes that something is real, although there is evidence that it is not.
- Constant hallucinations: the person may hear, smell, see, touch, or feel things that are not real.
- Disorganized thinking, which is often observed as irrelevant speech.
- Highly disorganized behavior e.g. The person does things that appear bizarre or purposeless, or the person has unpredictable or inappropriate emotional responses that interfere with their ability to organize their behavior;
- “Negative symptoms” such as very limited speech, restricted experience and expression of emotions, inability to experience interest or pleasure, and social withdrawal; and/or
- Extreme agitation or slowing of movements, maintenance of unusual postures.

Causes:

Scientists has not identified one single cause of schizophrenia. It is thought that an interaction between genes and a range of environmental factors may cause schizophrenia. Psychosocial factors may also affect the onset and course of schizophrenia.

Complications:

- Suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts.
- Anxiety disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder (ocd)
- Depression
- Inability to work or attend school
- Social isolation



- Health and medical problems
- Being victimized
- Aggressive behavior, although it's uncommon

Diagnosis:

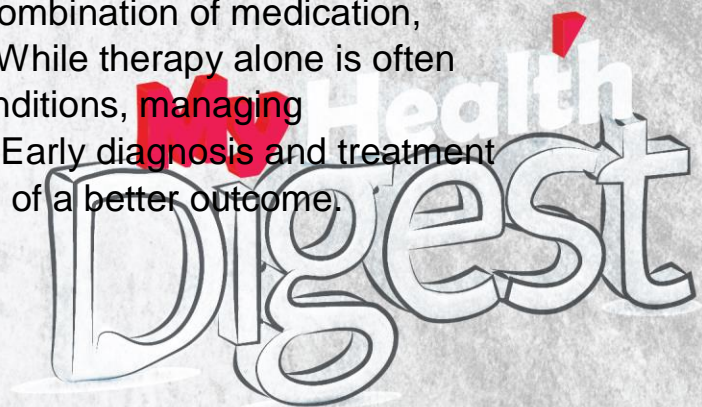
There aren't any diagnostic tests for schizophrenia-spectrum conditions. But healthcare providers will likely run tests to rule out other conditions before diagnosing schizophrenia. The most likely types of tests include:

- **Imaging tests.** Healthcare providers will often use computerized tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and other imaging tests to rule out conditions like stroke, brain injuries, tumors and other changes to your brain structure.
- **Blood, urine and cerebrospinal fluid (spinal tap) tests.** These tests look for chemical changes in bodily fluids that might explain changes in your behavior. They can rule out heavy metal toxicity or other causes of poisoning, infections and more.
- **Brain activity testing.** An electroencephalogram (EEG) detects and records the electrical activity in your brain. To eliminate conditions like epilepsy.

Treatment:

Schizophrenia isn't a curable condition, but it is often treatable. In a small percentage of cases, people can recover from schizophrenia entirely.

Treating schizophrenia usually involves a combination of medication, therapy and self-management techniques. While therapy alone is often effective for treating most mental health conditions, managing schizophrenia usually requires medication. Early diagnosis and treatment are important as they increase the chances of a better outcome.



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