



Schizophrenia

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Indian and Australian scientists have identified a **new gene directly linked to Schizophrenia.**

- Their study found a gene called **NAPRT1**, that encodes an enzyme involved in vitamin B3 metabolism, in a large genomic dataset of schizophrenia patients.
- The study has predominantly been done in populations with European ancestry.
- **A mental disorder:** It is a severe **mental disorder**, characterized by profound disruptions in thinking, affecting language, perception, and the sense of self. It affects more than 21 million people worldwide.
- **Cause:** Researchers believe that **genetic as well as environmental factors** such as exposure to viruses contribute to causation, and also **life stressors** may play a role in the disorder's onset and course.
- **Onset:** It typically begins in late adolescence or early adulthood.
- **Impact:** Hallucinations, delusions, reduced speaking, reduced ability to understand information and decision making, trouble in focusing or paying attention etc.
- **Schizophrenia is a treatable disorder.** Therapy and support can help people learn social skills, cope with stress, identify early warning signs of relapse and prolong periods of remission.