UNDERINVESTMENT AND SUB-OPTIMAL CARE IN SCHIZOPHRENIA ARE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR PATIENTS, THEIR FAMILIES AND SOCIETY

Schizophrenia:
is a long-term mental health disorder that causes hallucinations, delusions and muddled thoughts.

Responsible for:

1.1% of all DALYs

2.5% of global health expenditure

2x more likely to develop type II diabetes

Redesign of health services for schizophrenia is a top priority globally

47% of patients do not report symptoms nor seek treatment

17% are misdiagnosed

Only 36% receive appropriate treatment

Family caregivers spend an average of 23 hours per week caring for their relatives with schizophrenia

4 out of 10 feel they are unable to cope with the constant anxiety of caring

44% are unsatisfied with their role in treatment and care planning

Focusing healthcare programmes on early intervention and communication with family caregivers can reduce schizophrenia complications

22% fewer days in hospital than standard care programmes

† Disability adjusted life years.

This infographic has been developed by H. Lundbeck A/S from published literature as a contribution to the public health debate and is endorsed by the European Brain Council, the European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness, the Global Alliance of Mental Health Illness Advocacy Networks and the World Federation for Mental Health.
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Lack of response and side effects from current schizophrenia medications put patients at risk of stopping medication and of relapse.⁹

8 out of 10 receiving pharmacologic therapy for schizophrenia do not achieve remission.¹⁰

50% of people treated for schizophrenia stop taking their medication.⁹

Without maintenance antipsychotic treatment, 60-70% relapse within one year, and almost 90% relapse within two years.¹¹

Healthcare costs for patients who relapse are over €2,000 more each year.¹²

1 in 7 people with schizophrenia discontinue treatment due to side effects they cannot tolerate.¹³

Common side effects include:¹⁴
- Irritability
- Insomnia
- Restlessness
- Anxiety
- Weight gain
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes
- Sleepiness
- Parkinonism

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

• Invest in healthcare professional training and services so people with schizophrenia are accurately diagnosed and can easily access the support they need.

• Educate, empower and support caregivers to enhance their important role alongside healthcare professionals and patients in the management of treatment and care for people with schizophrenia.

• Invest in earlier and appropriate schizophrenia interventions to avoid extended periods of untreated or sub-optimally treated psychosis and reduce the economic burden.

• Improve access to schizophrenia treatment that delivers quality of life and functioning outcomes.


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