Schizophrenia Linked With Genetic Changes That Are Not Inherited

Previous research has linked heritable genetic changes with schizophrenia. But genetic changes that occur in utero and are not inherited might also be associated with developing schizophrenia later, according to new data from more than 24,000 people with and without the condition.

The study found that deletions in 2 genes were more common in people with schizophrenia. The first gene, NRXN1, encodes a protein involved in brain signaling. The second, ABCB11, is enriched in dopaminergic neurons in a subset of people with treatment-resistant schizophrenia who were taking clozapine, the researchers reported in *Cell Genomics*.

“With this study, we show that it is possible to find somatic variants in a psychiatric disorder that develops in adulthood,” study coauthor Eduardo Maury, PhD, said in a statement. The finding “opens up questions” about what other psychiatric disorders might be regulated by these kinds of non-inherited genetic changes, he added.

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.