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### Prenatal Infections and Schizophrenia

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**Introduction:** Schizophrenia is a psychiatric disorder with multiple causes, including genetic, immune, environmental causes of various kinds, which all increase the vulnerability and predisposition to the disorder. Among them stand out prenatal infections, thus being a preventable risk potential factor in our daily clinical practice.

**Objectives:** To analyze the relation between prenatal infections and schizophrenia.

**Methods:** Review of the subject and recent articles on schizophrenia in Psychiatric guides and magazines.

**Results:** After analyzing several studies, it has been shown that prenatal infections, where the nervous system is not yet fully developed, may be a risk factor for the development of schizophrenia in adults, in relation with genetically predisposed individuals. Infections such as influenza, especially during the first quarter of gestation; rubella, toxoplasma and herpes simplex virus-type 2 are related to potentially increase risk of suffering schizophrenia.

**Conclusions:** Prenatal infections, especially in the first quarter and the periconceptional period, constitute a risk factor in individuals with vulnerability to develop schizophrenia. Awareness and prevention is important in the pregnant population of the influence of these infections on the possible origin of psychotic episodes.