Schizophrenia and cannabis use may share common genes

Genes that increase the risk of developing schizophrenia may also increase the propensity to use cannabis, reports a study published in *Molecular Psychiatry*. Previous studies have identified an association between cannabis use and schizophrenia, but it has been unclear whether the relationship is one of cause and effect (due to cannabis directly raising risk of psychosis). The new results suggest that part of the association is due to genetics, but do not rule out a causal relationship between cannabis use and schizophrenia risk.

Robert Power and colleagues investigated genes related to schizophrenia, identified in previous studies, and cannabis use in 2,082 healthy individuals. They found that people genetically predisposed to schizophrenia were more likely to use cannabis, and use it in greater quantities than those who did not possess schizophrenia risk genes. The results suggest that part of the association between schizophrenia...
and cannabis use is due to common genes, and indicate that the risk of some behaviours, such as cannabis use, may depend on an individual’s genetic make-up.

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