

## What are examples of autoimmune psychosis?

### Autoimmune Psychosis and Its Main Examples: A Brief Overview

“Autoimmune psychosis” usually refers to psychotic syndromes caused by autoimmune encephalitis or other autoimmune brain diseases, often treatable with immunotherapy rather than standard psychiatric care alone.

#### Key Autoimmune Encephalitis Types Presenting With Psychosis

##### Neuronal surface antibody encephalitides

These are the clearest examples of autoimmune psychosis:

Autoantibody / Syndrome	Typical psychotic/psychiatric features	Citations
<b>Anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis</b>	Acute polymorphic psychosis, hallucinations, delusions, agitation, mood changes, catatonia, cognitive decline; often with seizures, movement disorders, dysautonomia (Cabrera-Maqueda et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Ramírez-Bermúdez et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2020; Nair et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2022; Jibuti et al., 2025; Guasp et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021; Saito et al., 2025; Luo et al., 2022)	(Cabrera-Maqueda et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Ramírez-Bermúdez et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2020; Nair et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2022; Jibuti et al., 2025; Guasp et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021; Saito et al., 2025; Luo et al., 2022)
<b>Anti-LGI1 encephalitis (limbic)</b>	Frequently starts with psychosis: hallucinations, delusions, delirium, disorganized speech; apathy, depression, catatonia, sleep disturbance (Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Pollak et al., 2020; Bien et al., 2021; Yi et al., 2025)	(Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Pollak et al., 2020; Bien et al., 2021; Yi et al., 2025)
<b>Other surface antibodies (AMPA1/2, GABABR, CASPR2, DPPX, GlyR)</b>	Schizophreniform or mood-psychotic syndromes with cognitive impairment, seizures, or limbic encephalitis picture (Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Pollak et al., 2020; Endres et al., 2020; Soares et al., 2025; Fominykh et al., 2025; Theorell et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2022)	(Endres et al., 2020; Brackowski et al., 2023; Pollak et al., 2020; Endres et al., 2020; Soares et al., 2025; Fominykh et al., 2025; Theorell et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021; Luo et al., 2022)

FIGURE 1 Main autoimmune encephalitis types causing psychosis

## Systemic and Other Autoimmune Conditions

- **Paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis** with antibodies such as Hu, Yo, Ri, CV2/CRMP5, Ma2, amphiphysin can produce psychotic and dementia-like syndromes (Endres et al., 2020; Pollak et al., 2020; Endres et al., 2020; Van Elst et al., 2025; Herken & Prüss, 2017).
- **Hashimoto encephalopathy/SREAT** and other thyroid-related autoimmune encephalopathies can mimic schizophreniform or dementia-like presentations with psychosis (Endres et al., 2020; Pollak et al., 2020; Endres et al., 2020; Van Elst et al., 2025).
- Mixed or dual antibody cases (e.g., **anti-NMDA + anti-AMPA**) can present as long-standing “schizophrenia” with persistent cognitive impairment and psychosis (Braczkowski et al., 2023; Luo et al., 2022).

## How These Differ From Primary Psychosis

Typical red flags suggesting autoimmune psychosis include: rapid onset, fluctuating course, catatonia, seizures, movement disorders, autonomic instability, cognitive decline, abnormal CSF/EEG/MRI, tumors, or other autoimmune diseases (Endres et al., 2020; Ramírez-Bermúdez et al., 2025; Pollak et al., 2020; Soares et al., 2025; Endres et al., 2022; Guasp et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021; Herken & Prüss, 2017). Pure, isolated psychosis due to these antibodies without any other neurological or cognitive signs appears to be rare (Cabrera-Maqueda et al., 2025; Al-Diwani et al., 2017; Guasp et al., 2021; Theorell et al., 2021; Bien et al., 2021).

## Conclusion

Examples of autoimmune psychosis mainly arise from autoimmune encephalitis syndromes—especially anti-NMDA receptor, anti-LGI1, AMPAR, GABABR, CASPR2, DPPX, paraneoplastic limbic encephalitis, and Hashimoto encephalopathy. These often present with acute or subacute psychosis plus neurological or cognitive features and frequently improve with immunotherapy when recognized early.

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