

## What challenges do you see with using a rating scale?

**Dr. Carroll:**

The Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale has been out for more than 30 years, and in fact, I've been using it since before it was published in 1996. The difficulty is that when you get a group of medical students, residents, and faculty together, the agreement is 65 percent and 50 percent. So the initial efforts to try to measure the reliability among relatively motivated residents, medical students, and faculty is that there is not agreement on the items of the Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale.

The unfortunate reality of the rating scale is that unless you have trained in an institution that uses it, and that has a professor demonstrating in the bedside exam, you will miss signs.

This can be remedied by some of the training videos that the University of Rochester has with Dr. Wortzel and Dr. Oldham. This can be remedied by having a professor who knows a lot about catatonia and can demonstrate the signs. What does not help is having someone read the description and follow appendix 1 and appendix 2 because that probably isn't enough to detect catatonia in the clinical settings where we find patients.