

What is catatonia?

Jonathan Rogers:

Catatonia is a condition in which there are problems with starting and stopping movement, speech, and complex behavior. So if we take the movement, patients with catatonia often have difficulty initiating movement—so getting up, walking, moving to eat—but they also have sometimes had difficulty stopping. So once they've said something, they might say it again and again, and some of that overlaps with the speech as well where patients struggle to speak, they might be mute, but then they repeat the same thing. And then in terms of complex behavior, patients with catatonia will sometimes struggle to obey commands or obey them excessively.