

What are your thoughts on the excited form of catatonia compared to the stuporous form?

Jonathan Rogers:

I think the excited catatonia is an area where there is insufficient evidence. I think what is very clear is that alternation between stupor and excitement is almost pathognomonic of catatonia, by which I mean, if you see that, it's very likely that the person has catatonia. It's hard to think of anything else that would give that switch between presentations. What's much harder is where there is excitement on its own without any periods of stupor.

What we do know is that the presentations of catatonia in autism spectrum disorder tend to present a little bit differently from catatonia and say depression and schizophrenia. So in autism, there tend to be more of these excited features and fewer of the stuporous features.