

## **Why is it important for all medical providers (not just psychiatrists) to know about catatonia?**

### **Dr. Gazdag:**

The movement symptoms are not characteristic of psychiatric disorders, so relatives or the layperson usually identify that something is wrong with the patient, but they don't know which specialist is the appropriate person to treat the condition.

At least in Hungary, the patients will show strange movements, first brought to the emergency unit, the workup starts there. And probably the emergency specialists should be best informed or aware of the symptoms of catatonia, and after a screening workup or excluding the most common causes of the movement symptoms, they should think about catatonia and start the appropriate treatment. Of course, internal medicine specialists should be also aware of that syndrome in the intensive care unit. Also, we see quite frequently patients with catatonic symptoms.

So it's relatively common in other fields of medicine, not only in psychiatry. That's why all medical professionals should be aware of the symptoms of catatonia.

In neurology, they have a special challenge of separating organic movement symptoms or the organic causes of the movement symptoms from psychiatric causes.