

Are there any remarkable recoveries you could share?

Dr. Gazdag:

We just recently treated a bipolar patient with marked catatonic symptoms successfully with ECT. This 33-year-old lady was transferred from another psychiatric department for ECT.

The patient's history started three years ago when she experienced her first catatonic state. She showed fluctuating symptoms of retarded and agitated catatonia, which was not responsive neither to benzodiazepines nor antipsychotics.

Finally, after two months of unsuccessful treatment trials, the team decided to start ECT. After eight sessions, the patient recovered and could go back to her everyday life.

With the maintenance treatment of quetiapine and lithium, she did well until this August, when she became slower and speechless. She was admitted to the local hospital again, but as her condition deteriorated, her husband asked to start ECT instead of pharmacological trials. In the meantime, ECT became unavailable in the department.

The patient was transferred to our center and we started her ECT treatment without delay. After four sessions of ECT, the patient's condition showed significant improvement, and after seven sessions, she totally recovered, and we could release her from the hospital.