

## What role does anxiety play in catatonia?

**Dr. McCall:**

This is just my experience. It's interesting. Of course, I'm very fond of Dr. Fink and his work, and he's proposed — and I would agree with this — that there are certain things about catatonic stupor that look like a fear response running or over-the-top anxiety response where a person is frozen. And that makes some sense to me. But, in my view, I would see the catatonia as the principal problem and the anxiety as a feature within the catatonia, as opposed to the reverse.

The reverse would be that people that have day-to-day anxiety problems, like generalized anxiety and so forth, that when the anxiety precedes the catatonia causes the catatonia, that's really not been my experience. But I do think the flip is very sensible, that once you develop catatonic stupor in particular that anxiety can be a feature for that and explain some of the phenomenon that we observe.