

What would you say to parents of children who have autism who are struggling to get appropriate treatment or don't understand that it's more of a long-term treatment?

Dr. Ghaziuddin:

First, they should really find a psychiatrist who's familiar with catatonia. If the psychiatrist is not familiar with it, I think that will be a challenge. So find a psychiatrist, maybe get a second opinion if they don't get a satisfactory answer, read up and then recognize that catatonia, like all other psychiatric illnesses, is a chronic, recurring illness as of today, as of now.

We can treat most psychiatric disorders, but then ongoing treatment is essential, that we manage them. There are very few disorders in psychiatry where you do weak scores or...it's not strep throat. These are chronic disorders, these are recurring disorders, and they usually require ongoing treatment and management.