

Could catatonia run in families?

Jonathan Rogers:

The short answer is yes. There have been studies in periodic catatonia where patients have relapsing and remitting episodes of catatonia, showing that it does run in families—in studies from Germany. But the long answer is that it's a bit more complicated in that there are various genetic disorders where catatonia is common.

The three big ones we've identified so far are Phelan-McDermid syndrome, Down syndrome, and 22q11.2 deletion syndrome. And both of these have other features alongside them. So identifying the genetic disorder is actually really important to find out what other symptoms and signs this person has.