

Are there any remarkable recoveries you'd like to share?

Dr. Dhossche:

I have several. I mean, at some point you work with the parents very closely with kids or adolescents. And they've always let me record, make videotapes of their children while they're catatonic and then while they're undergoing treatment and getting better. In a lot of cases, the catatonia is resolved. So, they've all been very memorable, but I think the first case that we treated with a neurologist and with the ECT docs was a 12 year old in Mississippi.

So after a six month history of being bedridden and having every imaginable medical test known to mankind and coming up with nothing, and a referral then. I mean, I was following the case also because there was a catatonic syndrome in there and then they said, "Well, it's your turn now." We'll do ECT and the parents agree because I mean, what choice do you have? I mean, you have a choice, of course. So this boy was back to his usual self in the period of six weeks after 12 ECT sessions.

The first case was the most memorable one because nobody had ever done, in our center, ECT on a 12 year old, and not after a prolonged illness like that. It was just unheard of. So, very rewarding. And convincing the neurologist to send us more cases and to have our opinion work together. And at the time, this was about 2001, this entity did not exist yet — anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis. We didn't know about this and he may have had it, but we treated it successfully with ECT. Because of the presentation, he was bedridden, had all other symptoms of catatonia. So, yeah, that was a very dramatic case, as well as the others. That was the first.