

What can be done to prevent patients from being placed in hospice when they actually have catatonia?

Dr. Caroff:

That's shocking whenever you hear about that. You'd like to think that there's a better process that goes into evaluating patients neurologically before a decision like that is made — especially if there isn't a diagnosis or any way to explain a lack of responsiveness.

I think just getting the word out in general about catatonia and personal stories, people who are at that point and were saved. I think that would be the best way to make it more widely known that, "Hey, did you consider catatonia in this case?"

I would assume often that's because they don't have a diagnosis for why the patient's nonresponsive, and somehow, we got to get catatonia up in statistical probability as a possible diagnosis. It has to be prevented at all costs. Obviously.