

What are the obstacles to patients receiving an accurate diagnosis and optimal treatment?

Jonathan Rogers:

I think there are a number of obstacles to recognizing and treating catatonia appropriately. The first is that patients with catatonia present in all kinds of ways. There are catatonia services where everyone comes. Sometimes they present to an emergency department. Sometimes they present to their primary care physician, sometimes they're treated by general medicine, by intensive care, psychiatry, neurology so it's a huge range of clinicians who are encountering catatonia, and it's presenting in different ways.

I think the second barrier is in terms of education. A lot of clinicians don't feel comfortable recognizing catatonia. And I think that the third barrier is in terms of treatment. A lot of clinicians are anxious about using high doses of lorazepam and anxious about the side effects and the respiratory depression that might cause.