

# Can catatonia present as its own thing in which there's no psychiatric diagnosis and no medical diagnosis?

**Dr. McCall:**

I think the answer is yes. It's a concept I don't think the field of psychiatry has fully grappled with. As we know, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Psychiatric Disorders put out by the American Psychiatric Association has progressively been moving towards making catatonia more inclusive in its nomenclature. So now we have depression with catatonic features and schizophrenia with all these different things.

The DSM I don't think recognizes catatonia by itself yet, although there may be an international classification of disease nomenclature that will allow it. But I think we will get there. And I think it's worth continuing to push to see how often we see catatonia standing on its own because if that, in fact, is true, then it should widen the scope of our vision for when we're looking for patients with catatonia.