

What do you think causes catatonia?

Alyssa Phillips:

You mentioned that you thought catatonia was a medical condition. What do you think causes catatonia?

Dr. Fink:

I don't have any idea about the cause of this physical illness. In the books that I wrote, we saw that most of the patients start off with fear. They become frightened, they become fearful, they withdraw, and that concept that fear is the basis at least is one theory.

And there are some animal studies in which the animals develop a form of behavior which we would see as catatonia. And that's usually when an animal is frightened.