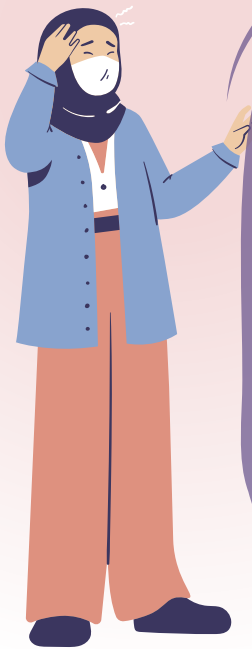


Catatonia

Catatonia refers to a group of symptoms commonly indicative of psychiatric illnesses, such as lack of communication and movement, confusion, restlessness and agitation. However recent studies show that catatonia is also associated with a wide variety of different disorders aside from psychiatric disorders.



Symptoms

Diagnosis of any of three below can indicate that a person is catatonic.

- Stupor (Lack of response to stimuli in the environment)
- Agitation
- Cataplexy(muscle rigidity)
- Mutism (Not speaking)
- Echopraxia (Mimicry of other's movements and speech patterns)

Types

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders has recently removed the classification of catatonia into types, however professionally may still do so. Catatonia was previously categorized as:

- Akinetic catatonia - slows movement(most common)
- Excited (hyperkinetic) catatonia - fast movements
- Malignant catatonia - causes delirium, fever and increased heart rate.



Causes

- Bipolar disorders
- Psychotic disorders
- Rare autoimmune disorders
- Cerebral folate deficiency
- Parkinson's disease

Treatment

Catatonia is usually treated first with medications like benzodiazepines, muscle relaxants and tricyclic antidepressants.

Electroconvulsive therapy(ECT) is also an effective and painless method of treatment for individuals suffering from catatonia.



References:

- <https://www.webmd.com/schizophrenia/what-is-catatonia>
- <https://www.healthline.com/health/catatonia>