Review of Key Points
Hyperkinetic Catatonia
Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale

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Excitement: Constant motor movements that are apparently purposeless
• Excludes akathisia

Ambitendency: Motorically indecisive, “stuck” movements
• Can present as either complete stoppage of movement or vacillating behaviors (e.g., stepping back and forth, in and out of a doorway)

Automatic Obedience: Exaggerated cooperation, even if the stimulus is aversive to patient

Perseveration: Difficulty shifting topics or stopping movements
• Motor perseveration differs from stereotypy and mannerisms, both of which are initiated by the patient
• Verbal perseveration differs from verbigeration, which sounds like a skipping record

Echopraxia: Mimicking examiner’s movements
• Can be spontaneous or elicited by examiner’s making exaggerated movements (e.g., scratching head or turning in a circle)

Verbigeration: Repetition of a phrase or sentence
• Sounds like a skipping record

Echolalia: Mimicking examiner’s speech
• Mimicry is spontaneous, serves no apparent purpose, and appears automatic

Combativeness: Unprovoked, non-goal-directed aggression toward a person
• Excludes actions that are purposeful or done in retaliation
• Differs from impulsivity, which does not involve a potentially dangerous action done toward another person