

Review of Key Points

Hypokinetic Catatonia

Bush-Francis Catatonia Rating Scale

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Withdrawal: Refusal to eat, drink or make eye contact

- Includes active avoidance of eye contact
- Differs from staring, which describes a fixed gaze
- Rule out immobility as a cause of fasting (e.g., can test by trying to feed patient)

Immobility/Stupor: Extreme hypoactivity, unresponsiveness but not against gravity

- Typically involves the whole body
- Differs from posturing/catalepsy, which involves positions maintained against gravity
- Differs from rigidity, which describes increased muscle tone on exam

Grimacing: Odd facial expressions, including movements

- Can affect any part of face (e.g., forehead, nose, lips, tongue)
Mutism: Verbally minimally responsive
- Includes unintelligible whispering
- Excludes intelligible whispering, which is manneristic speech
- Excludes mutism due to known neurological condition (e.g., stroke)

Negativism: Motiveless resistance to instruction

- Includes doing the opposite of instructions (e.g., opens eyes when asked to close them)
- Do NOT score when a patient fails to stop another catatonic feature on command (e.g., immobile patient does not sit up when asked to)

Gegenhalten: Muscle resistance proportional to the force applied

- Differs from rigidity, which is consistent, increased muscle tone throughout the range of motion

Rigidity: Increased muscle tone throughout movement

- Differs from waxy flexibility, which is initially increased muscle tone that quickly releases
- Differs from immobility/stupor, which refers to lack of movement rather than increase in muscle tone

Stereotypy: Repetitive, non-goal-directed movement

- Abnormal by virtue of excessive repetition, not in the movement itself
- Differs from mannerism, which is bizarre but purposeful (e.g., walking like a chicken)