

Letter to the Editor

Catatonia and Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome

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TO THE EDITOR:

Lee (1) reported a naturalistic study with 14 episodes of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) and found 5 did not meet criteria for catatonia or respond to benzodiazepines within 3 days. These observations are at variance with other studies showing a close relationship between catatonia and NMS as evidenced by overlap in clinical features (e.g., 2,3) and positive response to treatment with high potency benzodiazepines (e.g., 2,4). In the Lee study, no details are offered as to the type or frequency of assessment for catatonia during the NMS episodes, and no dosages of benzodiazepines are provided to compare those NMS episodes deemed responsive or non-responsive to these agents. Some cases of NMS require high dosages of benzodiazepines for treatment (4).

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