

# Family Experiences of Vegetative and Minimally Conscious States

[www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/nerves-brain](http://www.healthtalk.org/peoples-experiences/nerves-brain)

Families share their experiences on the award-winning website **healthtalk.org**

Research by Professor Jenny Kitinger & Professor Celia Kitinger (Cardiff University),  
Co-Directors of the Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre ([cdoc.org.uk](http://cdoc.org.uk))

## Watch short film clips from interviews with families to explore:

- Family views on long term care for their relative, ongoing treatment choices and end-of-life decisions
- The impact of having a relative in a long term vegetative or minimally conscious state; how it effects parents, partners, siblings and children.
- The questions families have, and the messages they wish to send to health care professionals

## See expert interviews on issues such:

- The diagnosis of the vegetative and minimally conscious state.
- The chances of some recovery and how this relates to the nature of the original injury.
- Medical treatment decisions for people in prolonged disorders of consciousness.
- How best interests decisions are supposed to be made
- End of life care.

## Endorsements

Winner of British Medical Association 'Patient Information Award' (2016) for 'Information on Ethical Issues'

"It is an excellent website and should be **the** resource for Health Care professionals, including managers and commissioners, because it covers all aspects and presents most of the possible points of view. (Professor Derick Wade, Oxford Centre for Enablement)

"It's an invaluable complement to the National Clinical Guidelines and will help health care professionals to deliver the guidelines in practice" (Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes)

"On this wonderful website we can hear others expressing their heartfelt thoughts and fears, and putting it so eloquently - you don't feel so alone." (Angela Bolton, family member)



Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes is a Consultant in rehabilitation medicine & chaired the Royal College of Physicians' working party on prolonged disorders of consciousness.



Professor David Menon is Head of the Department of Anaesthesia and Co-Chair of the Acute Brain Injury Programme at the University of Cambridge.



Professor Henry Marsh is a consultant neurosurgeon and author of the book: 'Do No Harm: tales of life, death and brain surgery.'