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April 29, 1994

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There is no secure literature on ECT in patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. The closest are the early reports of the successful use of ECT in patients with multiple sclerosis [Savitsky and Karliner, *NY State J. Med.* 1951; 51:788] and Alexander [*JNMD* 1951; 114:283-306]. Others have written about the usefulness of ECT in Parkinson Disease, general paresis, progressive muscular dystrophy, and intractable epilepsy, in each case without negative effects on central nervous system functions.

While none of these experiences are directly relevant to a case with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, I believe the consensus today is that if ECT is compelled, there are no systemic disorders that would prevent the administration of ECT. I would anticipate no specific difficulty other than that associated with swallowing and respiration -- if brainstem signs are present sufficient to compromise these functions, the anesthesiologist may well decide to intubate.

If you decide to treat such a patient, keep good records and have your junior write it up. While I cannot promise the response of my successor as Editor of *Convulsive Therapy*, I expect that he would look upon such a report with favor.

Good luck, and my best regards.