

February 9, 1967

Dr. Richard Abrams
104 Childress
Sheppard AFB, Texas 76311

Dear Dr. Abrams:

I have read your letter and your report with interest. I found the review of focal seizures quite good and you confirm the need for a definitive EEG, behavioral and memory study. The more the data demonstrates clinical equivalents for unilateral and bilateral ECT, the more important a definitive study becomes - not only for the practical aspects but the theoretical as well.

For this reason, I regret very much that the EEG material was not collected. However, you indicate that you may be able to collect EEG records in the remaining subjects. If this is so, for comparability it would be very helpful to have records collected 24 to 30 hours after a seizure so that comparisons can be made with my earlier studies.

In reading the paper, which appears to be mislabeled, I am impressed with the equivalents of the memory tasks. However, why were the clinical results not included? Surely, since these patients were receiving treatment the records must show whether symptom relief occurred, or whether there were changes in global aspects of behavior, or whether there were some other secondary effects. Perhaps you wish to wait until you have completed the additional thirty subjects. But if you believe that this data is sufficient for the memory results, it should be as sufficient for the behavioral data. Incidentally, I think the title should more properly be related to the detailed analysis of memory changes than as a general statement of the daily administration of unilateral ECT.

In your letter you indicate that you have collected the memory data at each five treatment intervals. It would be helpful to examine these as carefully as the results after twenty treatments because it will give an idea as to whether the rate of change between the two groups may differ.

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Your question regarding Dr. Abood is good, but I doubt that he is either interested or has the facilities to undertake these determinations. However, once the clinical and our experimental aspects are defined I can call some of the people in New York like Dr. Abood.

The literature review sounds good and I will make available my files when you come to New York. As to the statistician who can perform the tests you require, if you will lay out the numbers on sheets identifying the variables, I can try to get the work done in New York.

I have recently re-read the ECT studies of Dr. Paul Blachly of the University of Oregon. He describes the administration of multiple treatment in one day with EEG control and argues that with proper ventilation the memory changes are minimal and the clinical improvement enhanced. He has a single report which appears in *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, Volume 7, 2: 100-107, April, 1966. As part of your reading I suggest you become acquainted with this article. He too has theoretical suggestions which warrant testing.

Keep up the good work.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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