

December 21, 1965

Dr. R. Bircher
Medical Director
Sandoz Pharmaceuticals
Hanover, New Jersey

Dear Rudy,

I am sorry that I was unable to attend the meetings in Puerto Rico. Turan has told you that we are now analyzing the data of our combined thioridazine-chlordiazepoxide study. The behavioral analyses are well along and we are beginning the EEG analyses now. As he may have mentioned to you, the laboratory data has given us some concern. There appear to be systematic changes in hemoglobin and hematocrit in the direction of a distinct fall during thioridazine administration, and again when thioridazine is combined with chlordiazepoxide. To confirm this, we are now reviewing the observations with other phenothiazines and with our placebo administrations.

While this is of interest, this observation does not concern us as much as the EKG findings in a number of subjects; the hospital internist has reported changes in the EKG during thioridazine administration interpreted as indicative of "bundle branch block." In four of our subjects we have withdrawn all medication and are now recommending biweekly EKGs. As soon as we have three consecutive records, we would like to have all the EKGs (approximately records) taken during the study reviewed by an outside consultant. If this suggestion is agreeable, would you like to recommend a consultant and participate in this analysis?

My best regards and Best Wishes for a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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