

April 15, 1968

Dr. William Karlner
20 Franklin Road
Scarsdale, New York

Dear Bill,

A repeat EEG was done on Miss Harriet Bernstein on April 4, (#409-M). According to your note she has been receiving Dilantin 400 mg, Tofranil 100 mg and Vivactil 20 mg/day.

This record shows spontaneous seizure activity, high voltage persisting for one to three seconds. The waves are high voltage 3 to 4 per second with intermittent single spikes, amplitudes exceeding 250 microvolts. With hyperventilation ~~and~~ the seizure activity is enhanced. The background record is filled with 5 to 7 cps activity with superimposed 18 to 24 cps.

In comparison to her earlier records seizure activity is more prominent and the background activity slower.

Impression: This combination of drugs does not ordinarily produce seizure activity, although reports of such activity after imipramine are available. These reports are primarily in patients with a seizure history.

The experience of seizures after convulsive therapy is limited. I would believe that such seizures would decrease with time if they are related to the induced convulsions. With these ideas in mind, I would suggest that Miss Bernstein's seizure activity is probably related to a process other than the induced convulsions and also other than her present drug treatment.

Dr. Karliner

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If her behavioral state has improved, then perhaps these drugs should be discontinued. If she still is depressed, then they probably should be continued despite the EEG record.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to see her again. I look forward to seeing you at Gracie Square.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

MF:kp

P.S. Dr. Paul Blachly is visiting me on Saturday, May 11. I understand this is your usual working day and perhaps you could set aside a few minutes to chat with us.