

*F. Sellers
Scoville*

February 8, 1980

Barrett Scoville, M.D.
NINCDS
Bethesda, Maryland

Dear Barrett,

Thank you for the articles on barbiturate withdrawal. I raised the question in answer to the suggestion, made by Dr. Tyrer, that mianserin may have epileptogenic features. His case report was flawed, however, by the fact that the patient had had lorazepam withdrawn two days before the seizure.

In the recent issue of Lancet (January 19, 1980, p.151), Einarson reports four cases of withdrawal seizures with benzodiazepines in one year. Dr. Tyrer's response is also included.

It is clear from the paucity of literature and the persistence of the question of benzodiazepine withdrawal seizures that systematic studies in man need to be done.

Incidentally, I had dinner a few nights ago with Dr. John Davis of Columbus, Ohio, who remarked on your work and some association with him. I found him most pleasant and particularly knowledgeable about FDA and drug regulatory matters.

My regards and my thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry