

F. Lerner's

June 20, 1978

Paul M. Schyve, M.D.
Illinois Mental Health Institute
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Paul,

Thank you for the fine review of the relation between prolactin elevation and breast cancer. I found it thorough and rather disconcerting.

During the past half year I have been working on the review of ECT which will be published later this year by Raven Press. In trying to assess the relative efficacy and safety of ECT and drugs in depression, mania and schizophrenia, I became more and more aware of the many risks that our patients run in taking medication. Now, I have added a citation to your review. On balance, it is clear that drugs are safer and more effective than ECT in schizophrenia and mania, but the issue is far from clear for depressive disorders. In fact, if one had to write an opinion today, ECT is safer and more effective than any of the tricyclics. That is the reason I was so interested in the review of mianserin.

In any case, thank you again. I am sure the review will meet the standards of the Archives and look forward to its publication.

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry