

J. Sellen
1979

July 10, 1979

Dr. C. L. Faingold
P.O. Box 3926
Springfield, IL 62708

Dear Dr. Faingold,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your report on the therapeutic action of antihistamines. I found it interesting and helpful. It reminded me that when I studied the effects of anticholinergic drugs on the slow waves induced in the EEG by induced seizures (ECT), I found that a series of central anticholinergics (atropine, diethazine, benactyzine, ~~diethazine~~) would reduce slow wave activity dramatically. At the time, Diaz-Guerrero, Feinstein and Gottlieb (Electroenceph. clin. Neurophysiol. 8:299-306, 1956) reported that diphenhydramine also reduced EEG slow wave activity after ECT. We believed then that this effect was related to central anticholinergic effects of diphenhydramine-- perhaps that was a reasonable guess.

We have not continued our studies of antihistaminics, but may get back to it if terfenadine gets to the marketplace.

My thanks again.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry