

November 26, 1995

Lizzie Sand Strömgren, M.D.  
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Dear Lizzie,

I read your essay on ECT in acute delirium with much interest. I marked up the text, and made suggestions which I believe will clarify the presentation. I also made marginal numbered notes which are discussed in the attached memorandum.

There is little question about the efficacy of ECT in severe melancholia, stupor, or acute manic states. The argument which I believe you wish to present is that in acutely ill patients with histories of psychiatric or systemic disorders, the appearance of an acute delirium, with or without fever, with or without rigidity, with or without autonomic signs, is a possible indication for ECT; and if ECT, the use of en bloc [2-?3 ?4] treatments may be life-saving. The discussion of unilateral and bilateral ECT and cognitive features is beside the point. I believe we need a follow-up of the Kramp and Bolwig article as an invitation to others to entertain the possibility of using ECT in this special type of case.

Thank you for the opportunity to read this report. My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry  
and Neurology