

F. Letters

June 4, 1976

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Dear Magda,

Thank you very much for the prompt and helpful response to my question regarding EST in children. I have also received the latest survey by Laretta Bender which will be presented to the Society of Biological Psychiatry it seems-- it is a good review covering the most extensive experience in psychiatry since it spans treatments to 1938.

In reviewing these data, I find myself in a dilemma. It is clear that the data are mostly uncontrolled, and the evaluations are principally global. No studies have made the detailed assessments of neurological deficits or psychological changes following EST in children. Yet, as the Massachusetts survey in 1973 showed, EST is given to children, usually over extended periods. What is to be done? The APA Task Force on Convulsive Therapy will be faced with a special problem in assessing these data.

Perhaps we can refer the issue to the appropriate group in the APA of pediatric psychiatrists for their assessment.

Again, my thanks for your assistance; and my regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry