

July 19, 1973

Ms Sarahbeth Mandel  
Copy Editor  
AMA  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Ms. Mandel,

Enclosed is our edited typescript of the levomethadyl report, BR-6744. We are pleased to accept most of the changes, and have made a few additions (marked in red).

One issue is of significance. We have used levo-alpha-acetylmethadol hydrochloride in this study. I note that in a number of places, you have edited levomethadyl to 'levomethadyl acetate'. If the 'acetate' is meant as a generic part of the name, then the appropriate term would be 'levomethadyl acetate hydrochloride'. If, as I suspect, the 'acetate' refers to the salt, then the appropriate term is 'levomethadyl hydrochloride'. I have assumed the latter in editing the typescript.

In support of this view, I would like to submit some data regarding our compound; as well as a copy of our 1972 submission. At that time the editors also amended the typescript to 'levomethadyl acetate'. We were not alert enough to catch this. After publication, we noted that the editors had added two names to the end of the article, indicating the levomethadyl acetate is Methafrome, Methajade. In checking with the manufacturer, Merck, I found that neither name is theirs; and in checking with the pharmaceutical indices, I found that neither Methajade nor Methafrome have any relation to levomethadyl hydrochloride.

I also note that in an earlier article by Jaffe & Senay (JAMA: 216-#8, pp1303ff) that the confusion of terms is also unresolved. Perhaps, the dl form may be called 'methadyl acetate' while the l form called levomethadyl. This was stated in a letter to me by another JAMA copy editor, Mrs. Weise on February 29, 1972.

Thank you for the opportunity to read the typescript again, and I look forward to its publication.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.  
Professor of Psychiatry