

July 6, 1971

Dr. Jonathan O. Cole
Boston State Hospital
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Jon,

Don Shapiro and I have reviewed the comments on our report, "EEG Profiles of Fenfluramine, Amobarbital and Dextroamphetamine in Normal Volunteers" (A-785), and thank you for them.

The figures do represent our data as well as we have found, but the reviewer may be correct in asking that the ordinate be clarified. Would "Standard Score Based on Pre-Drug Mean and Sigma" be better than "Difference from Pre-Medication Mean"? If this is better, the printer can change these in the glossy prints in the original; or, we will have the figures re-captioned.

I believe Table II does show something better than the text, and I would like it published.

Your comments on page 5 are most helpful. We have rewritten the paragraph, and have inserted a corrected page 5.

The second reviewer asked about order effects for fenfluramine when it was introduced at the end of the series in some subjects. We examined our data for order effects and found none for drugs, but did for differences in the first records from subsequent records (pg. 7). The first session effect (similar to the first night effect in sleep EEG research) was accounted for, however, by the random drug assignment.

Our use of female subjects was a problem. We found that the variability of pre-drug records was higher in women (due to the menstrual cycle?) than in our male subjects, and this observation plus our reluctance to use experimental drugs in women of child bearing age has led to our use of males only since this experiment. We do not have any data on EEG differences by sex except some suggestions that females are more variable, and this is not adequate for publication.

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Finally, the mechanism of action of fenfluramine is a matter of speculation and is of great interest.

I thank you for your prompt consideration, and for your continued support of our programs.

Please advise as to the figures.

My best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry

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