

May 23, 1984

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Dear Dr. Potkin,

I was interested in your presentation at the Society of Biological Psychiatry in Los Angeles on the continued use of insulin coma in China. My own contribution to the insulin coma story was to carry out a random assignment, insulin coma vs chlorpromazine study at Hillside Hospital in New York in 1957-1958. This was published under the title "Comparative Study of Chlorpromazine and Insulin Coma in the Therapy of Psychosis (JAMA 166: 1846-1850, 1958).

The enclosed Chinese paper reports on 2,858 cases of psychoses treated with ECT, and send it on, as requested. If you can translate the data tables, I would be most interested in the findings. The citation list of five papers is for reports between 1950 and 1960 only. Do they not get any Western books or journals? Is that a reason for the continued use of insulin coma?

My thanks for an interesting paper. I would be grateful to receive any reports that may come from your experience with insulin coma (and ECT, should you get back there again.)

My regards.

Sincerely yours,

Max Fink, M.D.
Professor of Psychiatry