

Serum prolactin level after electro-convulsive therapy in states of depression and schizophrenia

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20 depressive patients (Major type) and 13 schizophrenic patients were studied as regards the quantitative rise of serum prolactin following electro-convulsive therapy. 4 of the schizophrenic group were given neuroleptics before E.C.T. Serum prolactin increased 9.6 times its basal level in depressive patients, 6.9 times in schizophrenia without medication, after E.C.T. In schizophrenics who received neuroleptics alone, serum prolactin reached 7 times its basal value. Schizophrenics who received both E.C.T. and neuroleptics, showed rise of serum prolactin 18.4 times its basal level. Depressive patients and schizophrenic patients who received both E.C.T. And neuroleptics showed rapid and better improvement. Degree of serum prolactin rise may be considered as a pointer to better response and improvement