

A study on cognitive function in electroconvulsive therapy in depression

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Memory was assessed using Bender Gestalt Test and months later in 50 depressed patients fulfilling DSM-IV criteria of depression. ECT caused significant impairment of scores of Bender Gestalt Test and Wechsler Memory Scale assessed one week after ECT. 6 months later the scores returned to baseline pre-ECT level even improved than pre-ECT values. Memory impairment was not significantly affected by seizures duration or number of ECT treatments. However, the more the time needed for recovery of orientation, the more the memory impairment. It was concluded that, ECT didn't cause permanent memory impairment. If memory impairment occurred, it was transient and recovered completely by time, even became better than the baseline level