

ECT and sexual activity in males with major depressive illness

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Fifteen males with major depressive illness (DSM-III) received a course of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT), serum prolactin (PRL), luteinizing hormone (LH) and follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) were measured 15 minutes before and after the last ECT. The results revealed that ECT levels of PRL and LH were significantly higher than pre-ECT levels. Changes of FSH were not significant. It was argued that the relatively greater increase of LH than FSH was due to an acute antidopaminergic action of ECT which acted selectively on the secretion of the former. Moreover, the increasing sexual activity may be related to the elevated LH and PRL.