

Memory and social behavior changes before and after electroconvulsive therapy in patients with major depression and schizophrenia

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This study was performed on 21 patients with major depression and 23 with schizophrenia. Memory tests and social behavioral evaluation were done. The results showed no significant differences in memory functions and social behavior after both unilateral and bilateral ECT in both groups of patients, except for a significant improvement of immediate memory (digit span), visual motor performance and psychomotor retardation in schizophrenic group. The trail making test became worse after bilateral ECT than after unilateral ECT in schizophrenics, but not in major depressive patients with no significant difference. Also, patients who received more ECT courses during their life showed lower scores on digit span than those who did not. The duration of generalized convulsions was positively correlated with an improvement in patients' activities.