

timing from the start of clonic movements. In the event of inadequate seizures, the ECT technique should be reviewed to ensure good electrode contact and restimulation of the patient should occur with the options of increasing the dose of electricity and hyperoxygenating the patient.

Improved documentation is recommended and this includes recording the seizure duration, therapeutic response and side-effects, all of which would be important in aiming to give the optimal dose. Good communication between ECT clinic staff and clinical teams is essential if the former are to take responsibility for determining the dose given to an individual patient. A review of junior doctors' ECT rotas may also be necessary to provide greater continuity of care. Good communication with the patient and their relatives should not be forgotten and it is suggested that an information sheet would prove useful and could also improve the process of informed consent.

Despite my reservations, I think that most trainees and seniors concerned with the treatment or prescription of ECT will find much in this video that is informative. However, the advice is often general such that specific guidelines are not given, for example, about how to individualise the dose for each patient or what to do in the event of inadequate

seizures. Consequently, more specific policy details will need to be developed by individual ECT clinics.

DAVID GEANEY

Tape details

| Ratings | Audience |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| *** Highly recommended | P Psychiatrists |
| ** Recommended | M Multidisciplinary |
| * Worth looking at | UG Undergraduate |
| 0 No rating | PG Postgraduate |

Electroconvulsive Therapy: Official Video of the Royal College of Psychiatrists

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| Production: | Fishers Audio, Chester |
| Distributor: | Royal College of Psychiatrists, London |
| Details: | Video; 60 mins; 1993; sale £15 from Mr. D Jago, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, SW1X 8PG. |
| Rating/audience: | ** P, UG, PG. |

Child protection practice

A series of ten conferences are to be held around Great Britain from December 1993 to December 1994. These will disseminate the findings of Dr Peter Reder, Sylvia Duncan, and Moira Gray who used a systemic perspective to study the cases at the centre of 35 inquiry reports into child deaths. These results were published in *Beyond Blame: Child Abuse*

Tragedies Revisited. The conferences will give professionals an opportunity to hear the findings in detail, consider the implications for child protection practice and discuss how assessment of risk can be more effective. Further details from "Beyond Blame", PO Box 74, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2YP (telephone/fax 0428 641425).