
In early experiments all patients complained of the terrifying experience of suffocation and weakness after an injection of d-tubocurarine chloride. Preliminary anesthetization with thiopentone was found to be much more satisfactory than was a preliminary subconvulsive electric shock for producing amnesia before injection of curare. D-tubocurarine and thiopentone were given to 50 patients for electric shock therapy for psychiatric illness. Careful examination was made before the convulsive therapy. The traumatic complications of electro-convulsive therapy are avoided by the use of curare and thiopentone. There is no serious rise in blood pressure. Post-convulsive excitement is minimized. Fewer attendants are necessary during the treatment and the unpleasantness of the patient is almost entirely eliminated.

F. A. M.