

## What would you say to someone who is questioning the use of ECT in the pediatric population?

**Dr. Ghaziuddin:**

I understand that both physicians and the lay public might be concerned about the use of ECT in younger patients, but I think the main point that I would raise is that ECT is used at any age group in patients who are very ill.

The concept of benefit-versus-risk should be on the table—it should be discussed. So if you have somebody who has, say, severe catatonia, they have become non-functional—they're no longer able to go to school or go to the training center or even converse, not able to carry out self-care... I think we have to keep that perspective in mind, that those are the kinds of patients who are getting electroconvulsive therapy, and based on what we know about this procedure, the risks are extremely small, and they are time limited, whereas the risk of the illness is much greater. The impairment of the illness is much greater.