

Why do you think doctors are hesitant to recommend or make a referral to ECT?

Alyssa Phillips:

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Dr. Fink:

Pretty much every month, every two months, articles appear in the public press that say that ECT causes permanent memory damage, that ECT is not an effective treatment. There is a constant... I mean, I have a library of ECT, anti-ECT articles, and as recently as last month, there was one of the articles that appeared in a psychiatric journal that complained that ECT causes memory loss, and there was nothing in the article that was positive. That is, it did not take into account that the patient recovers or can recover or will recover if adequately treated.

I would say the public image of ECT is the end result of an ignorance — that's the word I want — of an ignorance of the benefits of the treatment when it is done properly. And so the overall ECT has a poor reputation except for those physicians and families that recognize the benefit.