

- 2 Risk factors for puerperal psychosis include:
- Foreign born
 - Age under 21
 - Family history of bipolar disorder
 - Previous episode mania
 - Chronic schizophrenia
3. Women following childbirth are at increased risk of:
- Suicide
 - Alcoholism
 - Deliberate self harm
 - Bipolar illness
 - Child abuse

MCQ answers

1	2	3
a F	a F	a F
b F	b F	b F
c F	c T	c F
d T	d T	d T
e F	e F	e F

Correspondence

Chronic fatigue syndrome

SIR: The chronic fatigue syndrome article by Lynch (*APT*, November 1994, 1, 33–40) mentions antidepressants can be used in this condition, but made no specific mention of the 'psychic energisers' which have been available for many years. These are the old MAOIs which are well known to overcome fatigue as well as reduce anxiety and depressive symptoms. Unfortunately they are classed as antidepressants and their adverse effects over-emphasised. Isocarboxazid is particularly safe as long as the MAOI diet is adhered to – it is also cheap.

This paper confirmed to me that many psychiatrists no longer acquire the skill of prescribing the 'old' MAOIs. This is obvious as a MRCPsych Part II examiner, and it means the chronic fatigue syndrome is often not treated as vigorously as it should be.

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Electroconvulsive therapy

SIR: I am concerned about some of the MCQ answers in Lock's article on electroconvulsive therapy (*APT*, November 1994, 1, 47–56), specifically with regard to the Mental Health Act. Indeed the advice in the text is also less than clear.

MCQ 4a – Patients are entitled to receive treatment without a clear explanation if they wish so to do, and their consent to the lack of information is in itself valid.

MCQ 4b – It may occasionally be appropriate to give patients ECT against their wish following their changing their minds with regard to consent, if the patient's condition warrants this. This would either be under the consultant's duty of care to a patient who was informal, or under Section 62, subsection 2, for patients who are detained under an appropriate Section of the Mental Health Act.

MCQ 4c – Detained patients are entitled to give consent to ECT. It requires the completion of Form 38 by the RMO.

It is worth emphasising that Section 62, subsection 2, states "Sections 60 and 61 shall not preclude the continuation of any treatment, or of treatment under any plan pending compliance with Section 57 or 58 above, if the discontinuance of the treatment, or of treatment under the plan would cause serious suffering to the patient".

Having made these criticisms, may I thank you for your work in producing a journal which looks as if it will make continuing professional development a pleasure, rather than a chore.

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