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Therapeutic and prophylactic utility of the memory-enhancing drug 

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## Therapeutic and prophylactic utility of the memory-enhancing drug donepezil hydrochloride on cognition of patients undergoing electroconvulsive therapy: a randomized controlled trial.

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### Abstract

**OBJECTIVES:** Substantial progress has been made in identifying how the treatment parameters used in **electroconvulsive therapy** (ECT) impact its cognitive side effects. However, there is limited information regarding the role of memory enhancers in post-ECT cognitive disturbances. We evaluated the **therapeutic** and **prophylactic** efficacy of the **memory-enhancing drug donepezil hydrochloride** on **cognition** of **patients undergoing ECT**.

**METHODS:** A triple blind (the study subjects, clinician assessing the **cognition**, and the data analyst were unaware of subject allocation for trial assessment) **randomized controlled trial** was carried out in a General Hospital Psychiatry Unit. Subjects were randomized into 2 groups. One group received ECT with placebo, whereas the other group received ECT and **donepezil** (a **memory-enhancing drug**). Study participants were assessed in post-ECT period to analyze cognitive deficits and to compare the differences in 2 groups, as regards recovery of various aspects of **cognition**.

**RESULTS:** The post-ECT recovery of various components of **cognition** was more rapid in **patients** using **donepezil** as compared to those not given **donepezil** ( $P < 0.05$ ).

**CONCLUSIONS:** This significant improvement in recovery time among **patients** receiving **donepezil** bears **therapeutic** implication in immediate post-ECT cognitive deficits.

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