

Electroconvulsive Therapy

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| Safety | <u>No absolute contraindications</u> <u>Increased risk:</u> severe cardiovascular disease, recent MI, space-occupying brain lesion, recent stroke, unstable aneurysm |
| Side effects | <u>Most common:</u> amnesia (anterograde or retrograde → anterograde resolves rapidly, retrograde persists -- rare w/ uni-lateral ECT and many experts think repeated gen anesthesia may be major contributor |

Capacity Assessment

| Patient (18+)/Family Must... | Assessment |
|---|--|
| Communicate a clear and stable choice | Ask patient to indicate a choice. Frequent reversals may indicate lack of capacity. |
| Understand relevant information | Ask patient to explain understanding of information given by physician (diagnosis, prognosis, proposed intervention, risks/benefits of intervention and alternatives, including no intervention) |
| Appreciate the situation and its consequences | |
| Manage the information in a rational manner | Does patient weigh risks/benefits logically? |
| Is there true imminent risk? | EX: patient indicating they are suicidal but meet all 4 criteria above. |
| Capacity vs competency -- capacity is a one-time assessment by a clinician, competency is a legal decision based on accumulated evidence that requires court hearing/proceeding | |