



Search news on 300 medical topics and themes

| All Web sites | HONcode sites | HONselect | News | Conferences | Images |
|--|---------------|-----------|--|---|--------|
| Themes: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z | | | <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search news"/> | Browse archive: 2003: S A J J M A M F J 2002: D N O S | |

Shock Therapy May Relieve Depression But can have side effects

(HealthScoutNews) -- Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) sometimes is used to treat patients with severe depression -- particularly when it does not respond to antidepressant medications.

While it is not known precisely how ECT works, it is believed to cause the brain to release chemicals -- neurotransmitters -- that have the effect of making a person calmer and better able to deal with life.

ECT is done, explains the American Academy of Family Physicians, while you are anesthetized and under the effect of a muscle-relaxing medication. Electric shocks lasting a second or two then are applied to your brain, which has a brief seizure. You're allowed to wake up a few minutes later. Then, after a brief period in a recovery room, you are allowed to either go back to your hospital room or go home, as appropriate.

But side effects can include short-term memory loss, nausea, muscle aches, headaches, or even a change in your blood pressure or heart rhythm. You also might suffer longer-term memory problems. Your follow-up care may include appropriate medications for any of these symptoms.

Copyright © 2002 **ScoutNews, LLC** . All rights reserved.

Disclaimer: The text presented on this page is not a substitute for professional medical advice. It is for your information only and may not represent your true individual medical situation. **Do not hesitate to consult your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns.** Do not use this information to diagnose or treat a health problem or disease without consulting a qualified healthcare professional.
Be advised that HealthDay articles are derived from various sources and may not reflect your own country regulations. The Health On the Net Foundation does not endorse opinions, products, or services that may appear in HealthDay articles.

HON Foundation is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

[Home](#) [About us](#) [Site map](#) [Feedback](#) [Search](#) [HONnewsletter](#) [Disclaimer](#) [© HON](#)

<http://www.hon.ch/News/HSN/509199.html>

Last modified: Tue Oct 15 2002