

TABLE 1
Reasons for Early Termination from the Study

REASON	DRUG GROUP					TOTAL (N = 537)
	CHLORDIAZEPOXIDE (N = 103)	HYDROXYZINE (N = 103)	CHLORPROMAZINE (N = 98)	THIAMINE (N = 103)	P ACEBO (N = 130)	
Left hospital against medical advice or without leave	10	2	9	9	7	37
Delirium tremens	1	2	4	4	7	18
Convulsions		3	6	2	5	16
Delirium tremens and convulsions		2	3		1	6
Behavioral worsening	1	3	2	6	3	15
Vomiting, intractable				1	1	2
Hypertension				1		1
Pneumonia		1	1	1		3
Tuberculosis		1				1
Severe cold	1					1
Skin eruption					1	1
Requested discharge	1				1	2
Requested change of medication		1				1
Died ¹		1				1
Inadequate therapy		1				1
Total	14	17	25	24	26	106

¹ Another patient, dropped from the chlorpromazine group because of delirium tremens and convulsions, subsequently died.

before the tenth day of treatment. The early terminators were fairly evenly distributed among the five groups, with the exception of the hydroxyzine group, which lost only two patients compared with eight to 11 lost in each of the other groups. It is difficult to account for this one significant difference, as these patients discharged themselves from the hospital for a variety of reasons. One may speculate that alcoholics feel more comfortable with hydroxyzine than with the other drugs studied.

Fifteen patients were terminated because of behavioral worsening, ranging from one in the chlordiazepoxide group to six in the thiamine group. This was the only significant difference.

Twelve patients were dropped from the study because of nine miscellaneous reasons. No more than one patient in a treatment group was terminated for any one of these causes.

The clinically important findings concern those patients who developed delirium tremens or seizures (or both). The incidence of delirium for the entire population of 537 was 24, or 4.5 percent. The incidence by drug group follows:

Chlordiazepoxide	1	(1 percent)
Chlorpromazine	7	(7 percent)
Hydroxyzine	4	(4 percent)
Placebo	8	(6 percent)
Thiamine	4	(4 percent)

Chlordiazepoxide thus is seen to have resulted in a significantly lower incidence of delirium than either chlorpromazine or placebo.

Several patients who suffered isolated seizures were not dropped from the study. Adding these to the cases terminated because of convulsions, the over-all incidence of seizures among the 537 patients was 37, or seven percent. The seizure incidence according to drug group follows:

Chlordiazepoxide	1	(1 percent)
Chlorpromazine	12	(12 percent)
Hydroxyzine	8	(8 percent)
Placebo	9	(7 percent)
Thiamine	7	(7 percent)

It is apparent that chlordiazepoxide was significantly better than any of the other treatments. An important additional factor should be mentioned here. Only one of the patients receiving thiamine, one receiving hydroxyzine, and three receiving the placebo