Abstract & file card

DESHON, H. J., RINKEL, M., SOLOMON, H. C.
Mental changes experimentally produced by L.S.D. (d-Lysergic acid diethylamide tartrate).
Psychiatr. Quart. 26, 33 (1952)

Summary

1. Observations are reported on the mental changes in normal adults produced by d-lysergic acid diethylamide tartrate (L. S. D.). Seventeen experiments were done on volunteers, 10 men and five women, with an age range of 19 to 48 years. Two of the women underwent two experiments each. The drug was given by mouth, usually in dosage of 1 gamma per kilogram of body weight.

2. Besides subjective symptoms, alterations were observed in the following areas: thinking and speech; emotion, mood and affect; sensory and time perception; behavior; morbid ideas and sensory experiences; and neurological signs. The reaction exhibited three phases lasting a total of 12 to 16 hours; in some subjects a fourth phase, as a post-L. S. D. effect lasting one to several days, was seen.

3. The L. S. D. reaction showed some aspects of an exogenous toxic picture. Even more impressive, however, was the simulation of schizophrenic reactions and manifestations. Simple schizophrenic and turmoil states were common. Transient paranoid trends were frequent. Various isolated findings in schizophrenia such as negativism, ambivalence, blocking, and unexplained smiling were witnessed. Schizoaffective and manic-like states were also encountered. Cathartic ventilation was seen in only one subject. The reaction was not specific, and the extent to which it was dependent upon the basic personality of the subject was undetermined.

4. The clinical effects of L. S. D. imply involvement of the higher or highest centers of the central nervous system, and perhaps of lower levels of the nervous system as well.

5. Further study of L. S. D. is indicated because of the remarkable simulation of findings seen in schizophrenic and affective psychoses on administration of an amazingly small amount of this substance by mouth.

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