

Funkenstein, D. H., Greenblatt, M., & Solomon, C. Nor-epinephrine-like and epinephrine-~~like~~ substances in psychotic and psychoneurotic patients. Amer. J. Psychiat., 1952, 108, 652-662.

A study which supports Funkenstien's view of two different kinds of reactions to some kind of stress---a nor-epin.-like and an epin.-like reaction. Sixty-three psychiatric patients were injected with mecholyl (a cholinergic stimulant). On the basis of blood pressure reactions to the drug, the patients could be divided into two groups: (1) blood pressure remained below the pre-injection level throughout the 25 minute observation period. This was interpreted as indicating an excessive secretion of an epin.-like substance. (Funkanstein uses the term "like" because at the time this study was carried out, there was no way to measure directly epin. or nor-ep n. Only the indirect physiological effects could be noted.) (2) blood pressure returned to the pre-injection level within the 25 minute observation period. This was interpreted as indicating excessive secretion of a nor-epin.-like substance. 39 of 42 cases showing evidence of #1 above improved with electric shock therapy. In contrast, only 3 out of 21 cases showing evidence of #2 above responded to EST. The great majority of #1 were diagnosed as manic-depressive or involutional psychosis, whereas the majority of #2 were diagnosed as schizophrenic.