

Lancet 1971/II, p.270.

LSD 2159 a

**DIAZEPAM TREATMENT FOR
L.S.D. INTOXICATION**

SIR,—I would like to endorse and extend the comments of Dr. Ronald M. Levy¹ regarding the efficacy of diazepam ('Valium') in the management of L.S.D. intoxication.

At our clinics in Sydney dealing with acute and chronic problems of drug dependence in young people, diazepam is currently the only drug we use, and then only if the situation is critical—e.g., on the rare occasion when a hallucinogen-induced panic state is severe enough to require that the patient be medicated before we can proceed with our usual method of "talking down", or in the acute narcotic-withdrawal stage if cramps and lack of sleep are jeopardising therapeutic progress. (Long-term administration of any drug is obviously not to be recommended.) In our experience, 5–20 mg. orally suffices, and is safe even in the common situation where a variety of unknown drugs has been self-administered.

Drug Referral Centre,
Kings Cross,
Sydney, Australia.

BRYANNE E. W. BARNETT,
Honorary Medical Director.