

Reply

DEAR SIRs

I welcome Dr Lee's response to my case report, especially as he has particular knowledge of the complex interaction between lithium and thyroid function. Of course he is correct that more information regarding the patient's pre-lithium thyroid status would be helpful. However, the episode referred to occurred in 1983 and the only relevant details in the case-notes are the results of a routine physical examination performed some months

prior to lithium treatment which records the thyroid gland as impalpable, and a normal thyroid function blood test just prior to lithium being commenced. Therefore while accepting that further information would have been welcome, I would contend that on the available evidence our patient would appear to have developed thyrotoxicosis due to lithium treatment.

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