



ECT in Denmark

Tom G. Bolwig, MD, DMSc
Professor Emeritus

Dept. of Psychiatry
Rigshospitalet
Copenhagen, Denmark

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



Copenhagen 1939

III CONGRES NEUROLOGIQUE INTERNATIONAL

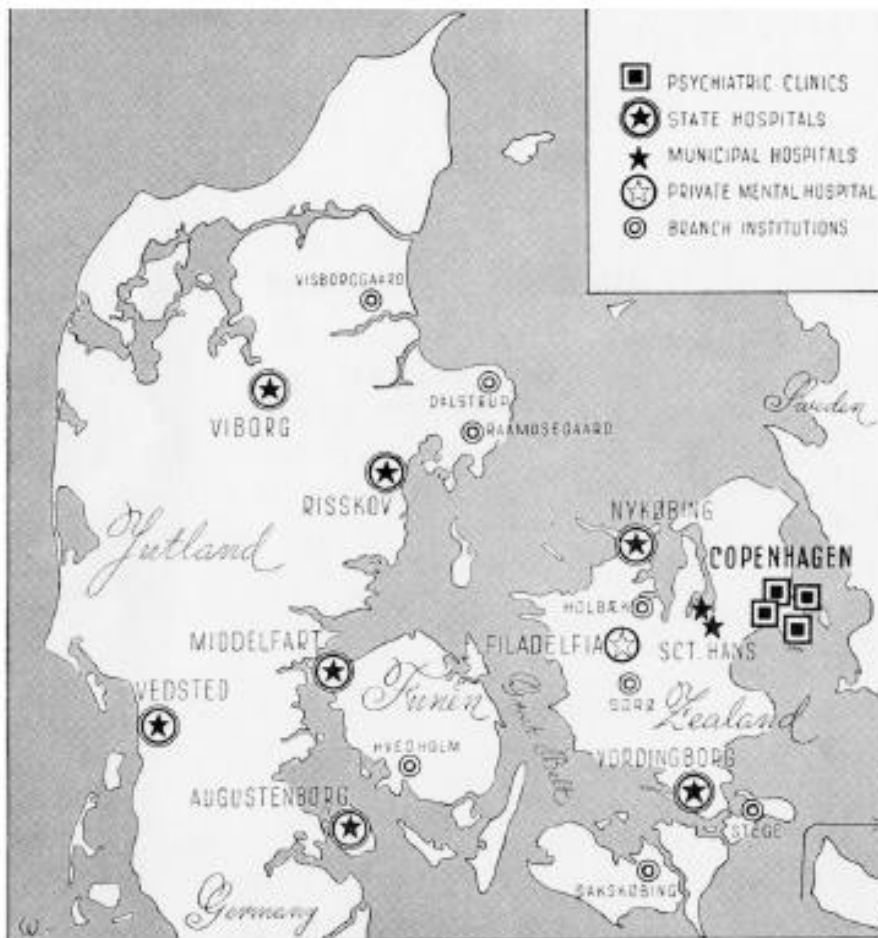


1940 first ECT at BBH in CPH by Arild Faurbye according to Cerletti and Bini's guidelines

Press: Augustenborg 1943



Psychiatric institutions 1952



7 state hospitals (7500)
 1 county hospital (SHH)+
 4 departements (3000 bs)
 1 private hospital (200 bs)
10700 beds

4 mill Danes.

In 1976 11000
 In 1999 4221

Figure 1: Map of Denmark showing psychiatric institutions in 1952. The branch institutions were placed under the control of the state mental hospitals. These institutions were intended for elderly psychiatric patients. (Courtesy of Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen.)

ECT in DK 1973, 1979, 1999 and 2000-2007

- 1973:
 - 22.110 treatments to 3438 patients
- 1979:
 - 19.564 treatments to 2332 patients
 - Narrowing of indication only 4 of 52 depts used brief pulse and EEG monitoring
- 1999:
 - 16.306 treatments to 1.710 patients
 - 1 dept of 35 sine wave device the rest brief pulse with EEG monitoring
 - 5% of all inpatients admitted to a psychiatric department had ECT

Heshe & Röder 1973, Hedemand & Christensen 1982, Anderson & Bolwig 2002

ECT-behandlinger i Danmark (Oplysninger fra LPR)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
ECT-behandlinger	2.336	3.237	4.686	15.174	16.606	19.173	19.389	19.127
ECT-behandlede patienter	260	313	460	1.399	1.563	1.786	1.774	1.772

Landspatientregisteret LPR = National patient register

Use of ECT in Scandinavia 1900-1999

Tabell 3 Antall ECT-behandlinger per 100 000 innbyggere per år

	1990	1991	1993	1997	1999
Stockholm (13)	170		130		
Göteborg (13)	494		414		
Danmark (14)					307
Ullevål sektor	28	48	107	150	249

Conclusions

ECT has since 1940 had a prominent role in the therapeutic armamentarium in Danish psychiatry

The profession as well as the public have been resistant to anti-ECT movements' attacks on ECT

Brain stimulation methods (other than ECT) have not replaced ECT

Bi-temporal ECT is recommended in severe affective disorder and delirious conditons