

DOUBLE BLIND CROSSOVER TRIAL OF LOW LEVEL LASER THERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF POST HERPETIC NEURALGIA

Neuropathic pain

Kevin C Moore MB ChB FRCA Naru Hira. Parswanath Kramer,
Copparam Jayakumar & Toshio Ohshiro

Department of Anaesthesia, The Royal Oldham Hospital

Post herpetic. neuralgia can be an extremely painful condition which in many cases proves resistant to all the accepted forms of treatment. It is frequently most severe in the elderly and may persist for years with no predictable course. This trial was designed as a double-blind assessment of the efficacy of low level laser therapy in the relief of the pain of post herpetic neuralgia with patients acting as their own controls. Admission to the trial was limited to patients with established post herpetic neuralgia of at least six months duration and who had shown little or no response to conventional methods of treatment. Measurements of pain intensity and distribution were noted over a period of eight treatments in two groups of patients each of which received four consecutive laser treatments. The results demonstrate a significant reduction in the pain intensity and distribution following a course of low level laser therapy.

Laser Therapy. 1988; 1: 7.