

Pulsed Radiofrequency of Stellate Ganglion for Pain Control in Patient's with Upper Limb Complex Regional Pain Syndrome : Retrospective Observational Study

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Introduction/Aim

Chronic regional pain syndrome (CRPS) is a wide spectrum of painful conditions which are usually occur after an initiating event and diagnosed clinically.

Method

This retrospective observational study of patients who were admitted to Allevio Pain Management during the period January 2013 to December 2018 underwent stellate ganglion Pulsed Radiofrequency (P-RF) for condition Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS).

A total number of 19 patients were identified who underwent an ultrasound guided stellate ganglion block for upper limbs CRPS. This project has been conditionally approved by Veritas IRB Inc.

Result

All the 19 charts had been reviewed. The median age of study participants was 48 years, the baseline median scores for pain intensity and interference were 7.0.

Over half of the patients experienced clinically meaningful improvements in BPI. The median pain-free period was 2 months. Eight out of 17 patients returned to work after the intervention. Before intervention, nine out of 19 patients were using narcotic analgetics. (dosage was 13.5-200mg).

After the intervention only one patient, remain on narcotic medication but with lower dose.

Discussion

Based on the above retrospective results, over half of the patients had greater than 50% reduction in pain with a median duration of approximately 2 months after pulsed radiofrequency of the stellate ganglion, and a significant improvement in quality of life based on post treatment BPI results.

Ultrasound guided technique of Pulsed Radiofrequency of Stellate ganglion offers a peripheral neuromodulation with the potential of extended pain relief to allow continuous rehabilitation and functional restorations.

Contact

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