

Is vaginal fractional CO₂ laser treatment effective in improving overactive bladder symptoms in post-menopausal patients? Preliminary results

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Abstract

Objective

To evaluate the role of vaginal fractional CO₂ laser treatment in the relief of Overactive Bladder (OAB) symptoms in post-menopausal women.

Patients and Methods

Post-menopausal women who complained of one or more symptoms related to vulvo-vaginal atrophy (VVA), who experienced symptoms of OAB and who underwent vaginal treatment with fractional CO₂ laser were enrolled in the study. At baseline (T0) and 30 days post-treatment (T1), vaginal status (using Vaginal Health Index - VHI), subjective intensity of VVA symptoms (using a visual analog scale - VAS) and micturition diary were evaluated. OAB symptoms were also assessed using a validated questionnaire.

Results

Thirty patients were enrolled. A statistically significant improvement in VVA symptoms was observed and in VHI at T1 ($p < 0.0001$). A significant improvement was also identified in the micturition diary, in number of urge episodes and OAB-q ($p < 0.0001$). Nine of the 30 patients suffered from incontinence episodes and had improved at T1.

Conclusions

We showed that fractionated CO₂ laser vaginal treatment has proved to be effective in improving OAB symptoms in post-menopausal women. Moreover, it is a safe and efficacious measure for the relief of VVA related conditions. Further long-term studies are needed to confirm these preliminary results.