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Combined shock wave therapy

Stephan Swart and Carlo Di Maio on the treatment of patients with postoperative CRPS (Sudeck's atrophy)

traditional between the indications for radial and focused shock wave therapy is gradually disappearing. It is only the combination of these two therapeutic systems – taking into account the muscle chains, joint biomechanics and Travell & Simon's trigger point topography - that allows long-term functional and structural improvements to be achieved. In addition to the existing indications, integration with osteopathic and traditional conservative therapy techniques opens up new potential for ESWT in terms of novel therapeutic approaches and vastly improves the success rates in orthopaedic practice. The advantages of combined radial and focused shock wave therapy are illustrated with reference to the case of a 21-year-old woman following hand surgery and the development of postoperative CRPS (Sudeck's atrophy).

History

2009: Snowboarding accident with injury to the ligament complexes in the D3 and D4 metacarpophalangeal joint region of the right hand with post-traumatic volar subluxation of the head of the fourth metacarpal bone.

November 2011: hand surgical procedure involving reposi-tioning of the head of the fourth metacarpal bone and reconstruction. surgery, patient Following developed all the symptoms of

Despite immobilization lasting several weeks, administration of high doses of corticosteroid and over 180 physiotherapy treatments, the following complaints developed by August 2012: contracture of fingers D2, D3 and D4, myofascial pain in the entire right half of the body, dorsalgia and cephalalgia with a high level of suffering.

August 2012: Patient presented at

Augus 2012 our practice.

August 2012 - February 2013: fifteen treatments were carried out.

Manual therapy of the cervical and the cervical a thoracic spine, relaxation of the myofascial structures of the shoulder girdle and the arm using radial shock waves applied with the V-ACTOR® handpiece. Another priority of the sessions was combined application of radial and focused shock waves to the muscle trigger points of the hand and



At the start of treatment, August 2012 (left), and



lower arm, as well as intensive focused shock wave treatment of the scar tissue structures of the hand and in the region of annular ligaments D2 to D4, the flexor and extensor tendons and the small muscles of the hand. Physiotherapy was prescribed concurrently, as were a palmar and dorsal redressing splint for the purpose of stretching and bending

Treatment was completed in mid-February 2013. The patient is free of pain; myofascial tension and subluxation

mobility has been restored to the second and third finger; only in the fourth finger is there a flexion deficit with a fingertipto-palm distance of 2.5 cm. The patient is highly satisfied with this outcome; further surgical intervention is not envisaged.

Conclusion

Combined shock wave therapy is superior to separate use of the two techniques in the treatment of myofascial pain syndromes. The large number of structures affected in complex conditions of this nature makes a blend of both techniques in a multimodal approach beneficial. The tried-and-tested thera-peutic methods of conservative orthopaedics/traumatology should be specifically integrated into this treatment regime.
Our orthopaedic practice is

equipped with two STORZ MEDICAL DUOLITH® SD1 »ultra« systems. Being able to switch rapidly between ultrasound, radial and focused shock waves has proven to have significant advantages over previous equipment in day-to-day use.



DUOLITH® SD1 »ultra« shock therapy syste

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Kombinierte Stoßwellentherapie

Stephan Swart und Carlo DI Maio über die Behandlung bei Patienten mit postoperativem CRPS (Morbus Sudeck)





