



PharmTech

International Journal of PharmTech Research

CODEN (USA): IJPRIF, ISSN: 0974-4304  
Vol.9, No.3, pp 30-36, 2016

## Visual Analogue and Neuropathic Pain Scales Response to Low Level Laser in Cases of Postherpetic Neuralgia of the Sciatic Nerve

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**Abstract:** Postherpetic neuralgia is one of the most painful syndromes seen in a pain practice. It affects multiple aspects of the patient life. This study has been conducted to evaluate the efficacy of the low level laser in treatment of post herpetic neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. A sample of forty patients with post herpetic neuralgia of the sciatic nerve with no other systemic or metabolic disorders were randomly divided into two groups. Group (A) received low level laser while Group (B) (Control group) received the placebo laser, along the sciatic nerve course, duration of treatment was 20 minutes once per week for three months. The clinical findings of the patients were analyzed before and after the treatment via the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and the Neuropathic Pain Scale (NPS). The results indicated that all forty patients completed the study. There were no adverse effects observed. The Visual Analog Scale (VAS) score difference before and after the treatment was statistically significant ( $p = 0.0001$ ). Also statistical difference was found before and after the treatment in the Neuropathic Pain Scale ( $p = 0.0001$ ). In relation to the VAS and NPS scores, the study revealed that the results obtained in the study group were superior to that of control group. So, it can be conclude that the low level laser may be considered as an effective treatment modality in the treatment of Post herpetic neuralgia of the sciatic nerve.

**Key Words:** Laser, Post herpetic neuralgia, Visual analogue scale, Neuropathic pain scale.

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