Is Trancutaneous Nerve Stimulation effective in Relieving pain in Acute Soft Tissue Injuries in Adults

Clinical Bottom Line

No literature was found on the use of transcutaneous nerve stimulation for pain relief in acute soft tissue injuries in adults.

Criteria for Critically Appraised Topic

Population:

Adult patients with an acute soft tissue injury of less than 6 weeks duration
Age range 18-64

***Intervention*:**

Transcutaneous nerve stimulation (TCNS), transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS)

Comparison:

Oral medication, topical medication, pulsed short wave diathermy, ultrasound, acupuncture, laser, exercises, ice, cryotherapy, electrotherapy, advice, usual care

Outcomes:

- ***Primary Outcome:***

  Pain

- ***Secondary outcomes:***

  Return to function, return to work, return to activities of daily living, range of movement

Inclusions: Adults 18-64, soft tissue injuries of less than 6 weeks duration

Exclusions: 18 and under, chronic soft tissue injury over 6 weeks duration, chronic pain conditions, chronic pathology

Search Terms used

This would have been undertaken from the literature search planning form forwarded to Rachael Lewis

Databases Searched:

Cochrane	Pedro	PsychINFO	Medline
Clinical Evidence	Bandolier	NELH	Professional Websites
Clinical Guidelines	NICE	HTA	Sports discus
Rehab Data	CINAHL	Embase	

Types of study included:
Systematic reviews, randomised control trials,

Key words searched:

See above

Time Frame:

1990- 2008

Available Evidence

Database Searched (Specific to CAT)	Number of abstracts	Number of Relevant Abstracts
Cochrane		
Pedro		
Medline		
CINAHL		
Embase		
Clinical Evidence		
PyschINFO		
OT Seeker		
Bandolier		
Total		

Results:
No articles were found

Articles assessed:

Implications for practice
There was no evidence available to support or not support the use of transcutaneous nerve stimulation for pain relief in acute soft tissue injuries in adults.

References