

Ablative fractional CO2 laser for the treatment of severe burns scars: An interim-analysis of a prospective Australian treatment cohort

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Abstract

In the last decade, lasers have been introduced as a novel treatment option for burn scar management. Particularly, the use of ablative fractional CO2 lasers (CO2-AFL) shows promising results. However, only little data is available regarding subjective efficacy in burn patients. The Burns Unit and the ANZAC institute at Concord Repatriation General Hospital has designed a prospective trial to evaluate the safety and efficiency of these treatments. In the past 6 months various outcome parameters have been prospectively collected from the date of first consultation. Regular scheduled follow-ups after initiation of laser scar treatment allow for systematic documentation of changes occurring with regards to measured variables. Objective factors include the Vancouver Scar Scale (VSS), the Patient and Observer Scar Assessment Scale (POSAS), and ultrasound measurements of the thickness of the scar. Subjective parameters include questionnaires about neuropathic pain (DN4 Pain Questionnaire), and pruritus (modified D5 Pruritus Scale), as well as the assessment of quality of life with the Burns Specific Health Scale (BSHS-B).

A first interim-analysis of both the subjective and objective impact of this innovative modality in a large cohort of burn patients will be presented.