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J Craniofac Surg. 2016 Jul;27(5):1215-9. doi: 10.1097/SCS.0000000000002757.

Effects of Superpulsed, Low-Level Laser Therapy on Neurosensory Recovery of the Inferior Alveolar Nerve

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Abstract

Objective: The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the therapeutic efficacy of superpulsed, low-level laser therapy (SLLLT) on neurosensory recovery of the inferior alveolar nerve (IAN) after oral surgical injury.

Background data: A survey of the literature reveals the uncertainty of outcomes for the surgical management of IAN injury and the efficacy of low-level laser therapy in the treatment of IAN injury.

Methods: In this study, the authors report the results for SLLLT in 57 patients affected by paresthesia of the lip, chin, gingival, and buccal regions. Each patient was subjected to 10 laser treatments, once a week, with a GaAs diode laser. Clinical neurosensory tests (soft touch, 2-point discrimination, pin prick, thermal test) and the visual analogue scale were used before every treatment to evaluate the extent of neurosensory recovery.

Results: The authors' results demonstrate that 83.3% of the patients had a significant neurosensory recovery, as evident in the objective and subjective tests.

Conclusion: The results reported in this study indicate that SLLLT has the potential to improve neurosensory recovery in patients with IAN paresthesia.

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