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Randomized Double-Blind Clinical Trial for Assessment of The Efficacy of Low Level Laser Therapy in Patients with Knee Osteoarthritis

Thesis submitted to the Faculty of Medicine-Suez Canal university for the partial fulfillment of Master degree in

Rheumatology and Rehabilitation

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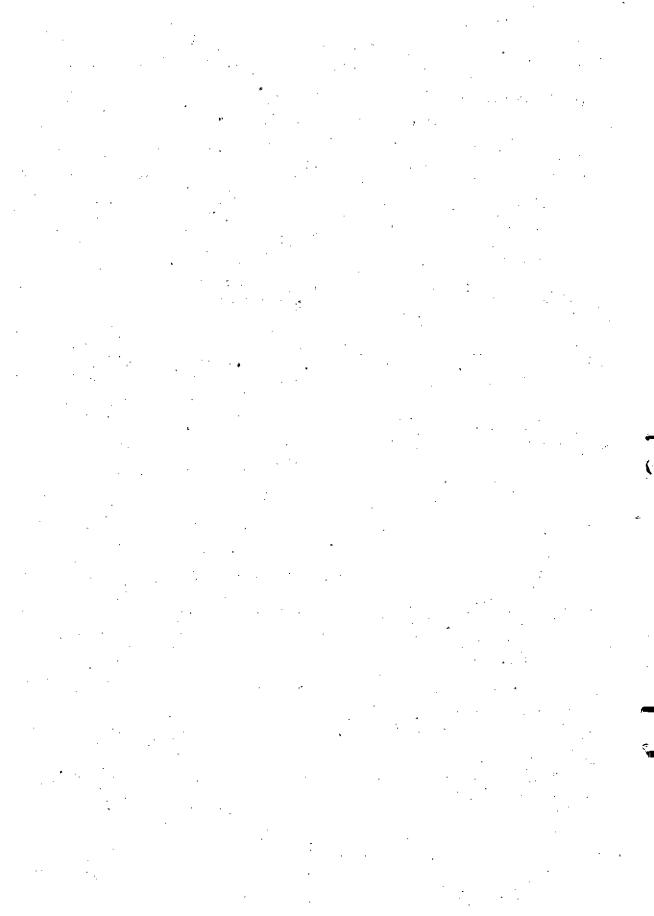
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ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Osteoarthritis (OA) is one of the most common form of arthritis and a universal problem of human. Low level laser therapy (LLLT) was introduced as noninvasive treatment for OA several years ago, however its effectiveness is still controversial.

Objectives:

To evaluate the clinical efficacy of LLLT for OA of the knee in relieving pain, increasing range of motion, decreasing stiffness, and improving functional status.

Methods:

Randomized double blind clinical trial was used for evaluation. 62 subjects of both sexes with Knee OA were included in the study and were divide in two groups. 31 patients randomized to laser and 31 to placebo laser. In addition to laser all patients received health education to reduce weight, strengthening quadriceps exercise and paracetamol. Treatment duration was 4 weeks. Sum of function, pain, and stiffness subscores of Western Ontario Mc Master Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC), knee examination and body mass index (BMI) was done at initial visit, 2weeks, 4 weeks, and 8weeks after treatment. Results: LLLT had reduced pain by 75%, morning stiffness by 69%, and physical impairment by 65% compared to placebo. Outcomes of quadriceps muscles status, joint swelling and tenderness and joint stability did not show any difference between the two groups.

Conclusion:

LLLT yields functional benefits for pain, stiffness, and physical impairment for patients with Knee OA and may reduce the need for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs with its side effects.



Table of Contents

Acknowleagement	
Introduction	1
Aim of the Work	6
Literature review	
 Anatomy of knee joint Biomechanics of knee joint Normal articular cartilage Osteoarthritis Obesity and osteoarthritis Low Level Laser Therapy 	7 22 28 39 85 90
Patients and Methods	108
Results	120
Discussion	139
Summary and Conclusion	144
Recommendations	146
Appendix	147
References	159
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