

Pilot study of Scrambler therapy for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy.

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Abstract Disclosures

Abstract

Background: Chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy (CIPN), a common dose-limiting side effect of chemotherapy, remains without known effective interventions. Preliminary data suggest that Scrambler therapy, a device which treats pain via non-invasive cutaneous electrostimulation, is beneficial for the treatment of CIPN. This pilot trial was performed to investigate the effect of Scrambler therapy for the treatment of CIPN. **Methods:** Eligible patients included those age >18 years, ECOG PS ≤2, life expectancy ≥3 months, with pain or CIPN symptoms of ≥1 month duration and tingling or numbness during the prior week. Patients were treated with Scrambler therapy to the affected area for up to 10 daily 30 minute sessions. Symptoms were monitored daily during therapy using a questionnaire to measure symptoms of neuropathy with a numeric analog scale. **Results:** We report on the first 11 CIPN patients, enrolled between 7/15/2011 and 12/2/2011, 3 men and 8 women; mean age 57 years. Patients had history of exposure to various chemotherapeutic agents and the majority had symptoms >2 years. The table portrays data at baseline, at the end of the 10 planned days of therapy, and the percent changes from baseline to the end of treatment, regarding patient reported pain, tingling, and numbness over the preceding 24 hours. There were no adverse events. Persistent benefit out to 5 weeks was seen in some patients; maturing data will be available by May 2012. Descriptive summary statistics formed the basis of data analysis. Further patients are being entered on this trial. **Conclusions:** Scrambler therapy appears to be beneficial in the treatment of CIPN. A prospectively placebo-controlled clinical trial should be performed to confirm these preliminary findings.

Effect of Scrambler therapy on CIPN score.

Symptom	Mean baseline score		Mean final score		Percent change	
	Mean	Worst	Mean	Worst	Mean	Worst
Pain	5.7 (2.20)	6.0 (2.10)	3.0 (2.65)	3.8 (3.00)	-48% (2.65)	-38% (3.54)
Tingling	6.5 (1.81)	7.0 (1.84)	3.8 (2.82)	4.0 (2.65)	-41% (2.34)	-43% (1.85)
Numbness	6.5 (1.57)	7.2 (1.78)	5.1 (2.43)	5.2 (2.48)	-21% (1.75)	-28% (2.14)

Numbers in parentheses represent standard deviations.

† Associated Presentation(s):

1. Pilot study of Scrambler therapy for the treatment of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy.

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