Traumatic brain injury and concussions: laser therapy treatment guidelines

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Nelson Marquina, MSc, PhD, DC

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- Former senior scientist at NASA/Johnson Space Center
- Former manager, Artificial Intelligence Lab at GE
- Former professor of engineering and biophysics at the University of Houston, University of Minnesota, University of Rhode Island, and Virginia State University
- Former director of research at Logan University
- Training doctors in the USA, Japan, China, Argentina....
- MSc in biomathematics and statistics
- PhD in electrical and systems engineering
- Doctor of chiropractic; certified in acupuncture

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Seminar objectives

- Review the concussion and TBI pathophysiology
- Explain the biophysics of laser light effects on neuroinflammation
- Present an integrative model of chiropractic and laser therapy for neuroinflammation
- Review the laser technologies suitable for brain tissue repair and functional improvement
- Learn photonic treatment guidelines for neuroinflammation

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Automobile collision (24/02/2008)



Hospital evaluation on 24/02/2008

- Inferior orbit fracture
- Hematoma
- Unable to move left side of face



Patient 4 days later (28/02/2008)

- Patient felt he is getting worse
- Unable to move eyes laterally









5 laser treatments



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Concussion: no structural damage

- Loss of consciousness is not necessary
- No detectable brain injury in the acute phase

























TBI leads to higher dementia risk

• Data on 350,000 veterans with and without TBI from 2001 to 2013

• Veterans with mild TBI and without LOC experienced twice rate of dementia (4,698 cases)

• Moderate to severe TBI experienced fourfold higher rate of dementia (10,835 cases)

• Those with multiple episodes experienced a ten-fold rate of dementia

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Original Investigation



Association of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury With and Without Loss of Consciousness With Dementia in US Military Veterans

Deborah E. Barnes, PhD, MPH^{1,2,3}; Amy L. Byers, PhD, MPH^{1,2,3}; Raquel C. Gardner, MD^{1,4}; et al

> Author Affiliations

JAMA Neurol. 2018;75(9):1055-1061. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2018.0815

Mild TBI means brain imaging without signs of tissue injury

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Neurocognitive testing - adjunctive tools:

• ImPACT

- www.impacttest.com

- Headminder
- www.headminder.com
- Concussion vital signs
- www.concussionvitalsigns.com

Nectocognitive testing, why dont
Baseline testing
High-risk patients, e.g., athletes
Patients who deny symptoms
Medicolegal support





Concussion causes neuroinflammation



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And vice versa!

nature > acta pharmacologica sinica > review articles > article

Review Article | Open access | Published: 01 March 2022

Mitochondrial-derived damage-associated molecular patterns amplify neuroinflammation in neurodegenerative diseases

Miao-miao Lin, Na Liu, Zheng-hong Qin & Yan Wang 🖾

Acta Pharmacologica Sinica 43, 2439-2447 (2022) Cite this article

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Key finding: balance ATP and ROS

Problem: Generation of ROS during early reperfusion precipitates significant neuronal injury and cell death.

Barriers to Previous Therapeutic Approaches:

- · ROS act rapidly (nano to milliseconds) and irreversibly.
- Scavenging compounds must be at the appropriate subcellular targets at the necessary concentration at the time of reflow.
- · Pretreatment needed to deliver compounds to ischemic tissue.

Solution: Non-Invasive Mitochondrial Modulation.

Hypothesis: Non-Invasive mitochondrial modulation therapy can overcome these barriers to ROS therapy and reduce post-ischemic brain injury.

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Cytochrome C promotes ATP production



Mitochondria functions

- ATP Synthesis (aerobic)
- ATP Consumption (anaerobic or aerobic with uncoupling)
- Redox Poise Homeostasis
- Platelet Aggregation and Activation
- Neutrophil Chemotaxis
- Late Neutrophil Oxidative Burst
- Macrophage Activation
- T-Cell Activation
- Sperm cell motility/fertilization
- Angiogenesis
- Lymphedema
- Nitric Oxide Synthesis
- Apoptosis/Caspase Activation
- Prostaglandin Inactivation
- Cholesterol Synthesis

Cortisol Synthesis

- Mineralocorticoid Synthesis
- Sex Steroid Synthesis
- Vitamin D Metabolism
- Cytoskeleton Architecture/ Mechanotransduction
- Calcium Storage and Release
- Iron Storage and MetabolismDNA and RNA--De Novo Pyrimidine
- Synthesis (DHO-QO)
- Lipids--Fatty Acid Oxidation
- Proteins--Amino Acid Metabolism
- Sugars--Carbohydrate Metabolism (Krebs Cycle)
- Urea Cycle and NH₃ Metabolism
- Peripheral Benzodiazapine Receptor

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Laser therapy: factors to consider

- Laser therapy has many significant factors
- No single treatment protocol could capture all factors

Laser factors:

- Spot size

Patient factors:

- Wavelength(s) - Average power

- Pulse or peak power

- Pulse repetition rate

- Target tissue depth

- Skin and hair color
 - Type of target tissue
 - Tissue layers in transit

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- Pain source(s)
- Skin contact or not
- Sensitized pain or no

Tissue penetration is a factor of both(laser)and patient













Dr. Karu on CW & superpulse lasers

• Cellular response to CW, CW pulsed and

superpulse lasers differ

Dr. Karu discovered the role of Cyt C





NM and Tiina Karu, PhD Dr. Karu discovered the role of cytochrome c in laser therapy *"Laser Biotech*

Dovepress

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Brain tissue penetration research

Neuropsychiatric Disease and Treatment

Near-infrared photonic energy penetration: can infrared phototherapy effectively reach the human brain? T. Henderson and L Morries - 21 August 2015

- 810 nm delivered 2.9% of the surface power density
- 980 nm delivered 1.2% of the surface power density
- Higher pulse power would penetrate deeper and higher average power would increase heat

Dose needed for cellular biostimulation were orders of magnitude more for CW lasers as compared to doses of superpulse WALT stated a 4-to-1 ratio (clinical basis)

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Laser energy loss through the skin

Energy loss due to the skin barrier for red laser (632 nm) is 90% and for superpulse (904 nm) laser is 50%

"A systematic review of low level laser therapy with location-specific doses for pain from joint disorders"

Bjordal JM, et al (2003), Australian Journal of Physiotherapy 49:107-116

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We lose lots of laser light at the skin!



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On tissue penetration and heat buildup power (watts) = quantity of photons energy (joules) = power X treatment time (s) Example: power = 5 W treatment time = 10 seconds energy = 50 joules





























810 nm CW laser produces heat buildup



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Laser therapy protocol guidelines

- Laser dosage brain tissue: 5 J/cm² at target
- Treat local tissues brain injury sites
- Treat supporting structures and functions
- Blood irradiation for systemic oxygenation

To compensate for tissue depth use the 50% rule

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Clinical case - neuroinflammation



- 77 years old
- 17 years in pain
- From neck down to ankles, worse in legs and buttocks
- History Rx: Amiltiptyline, Notriptyline, Lorazepam, Klonipin, Depakote, Buspar, Baklogen, Fentanyl patch, Zoloft, Prozac, Propranolol, Valium, Abilify, Tramadol, Cymbalta, and <u>Shock therapy</u>

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Supporting staructure: the basal ganglia







Blood irradiation: putting photons in blood flow





















Adjunct therapy: auriculotherapy



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Taking it back to the clinic

- Therapeutic lasers can be used for the reduction of inflammation in concussions
- Proper mitochondrial function is critical to treat neurodegeneration and for long-term tissue repair
- Concussions, in the chronic phase, are much more difficult to treat successfully

• Laser pulse rates of at least 30 kHz promote gene expression for tissue repair

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Adjunct therapy: scalp acupuncture



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Taking it back to the clinic

- Most lasers recharge cellular mitochondria
- Reaching brain tissues without heating are crucial for effective treatment of TBI and concussions
- Tissue penetration is driven by high laser pulse power and appropriate wavelengths
- Blood irradiation is more than oxygenation it recharges free-flowing mitochondria

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- Some therapeutic lasers are able to safely penetrate tissues with low risk of thermal damage
- Some wavelengths produce higher thermal buildup than others
- Visible lasers are poor tissue penetrators
- Average power = amount of energy per second
- Energy = (average power) X (treatment time)
- Energy is what can damage tissues, not power!

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