TITLE: Therapeutic Laser Therapy for Musculoskeletal Injuries and Edema: Clinical Effectiveness

DATE: 10 December 2008

RESEARCH QUESTION:

What are the clinical benefits and harms of using therapeutic laser therapy to treat musculoskeletal injuries and edema?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 4, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published between 2003 and December 2008, and are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews, health technology assessments, meta-analyses, observational studies, randomized controlled trials, and controlled clinical trials. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials (RCTs), controlled clinical trials, and observational studies.

Five systematic reviews, eight RCTs, and three observational studies were identified pertaining to the clinical benefits and harms of using therapeutic laser therapy to treat musculoskeletal injuries and edema. No relevant health technology assessments or controlled clinical trials were identified. Additional information that may be of interest has been included in the appendix.
Health technology assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


**Controlled clinical trials**
No literature identified.

**Observational studies**


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Guidelines


Review articles
