

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

10 Jun 2026

Effect of dry needling on neuromuscular junction response and sympathetic skin response in patients with upper trapezius myofascial trigger points compared with healthy subjects

Protocol summary

Summary

Introduction: Dry needling (DN) is an effective method for the treatment of myofascial trigger points (MTrPs). The aim of the present study will be to assess the immediate neurophysiological efficacy of dry needling in patients with upper trapezius MTrPs. Methods and analysis: A prospective, controlled clinical trial is designed to include patients with upper trapezius MTrPs and volunteered healthy subjects to receive one session DN. The primary outcome measures are neuromuscular junction response (NMJR) and sympathetic skin response (SSR). The secondary outcomes are the pain intensity and the pressure pain threshold. Data will be collected at baseline and immediately after intervention.

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT2013031612828N1**
Registration date: **2013-04-04, 1392/01/15**
Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2013-04-04, 1392/01/15

Registrant information

Name

Maryam Abbaszadeh-Amirdehi

Name of organization / entity

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 21 2222 1577

Email address

abbaszadeh_m@razi.tums.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Expected recruitment start date

2013-04-04, 1392/01/15

Expected recruitment end date

2013-06-04, 1392/03/14

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Effect of dry needling on neuromuscular junction response and sympathetic skin response in patients with upper trapezius myofascial trigger points compared with healthy subjects

Public title

The neurophysiological effects of dry needling in patients with upper trapezius myofascial trigger points

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: subjects with aged between 20 and 40 year old; upper trapezius active Myofascial trigger points (MTrPs). Exclusion criteria: subjects less than 20 years and more than 40 years; subjects with a history of other shoulder or spinal disorders; neck and upper extremity surgery; acute disease; muscle diseases; neurological or systemic disorder (such as lupus erythematus, scleroderma); epilepsy; pregnancy; using sedative drugs; needle phobia; bleeding disorder; anticoagulant

medication; previous experience with dry needling for myofascial pain; Skin lesion and infection or inflammatory oedema at MTrPs.

Age

From **20 years** old to **40 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked

No information

Sample size

Target sample size: **30**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Not randomized

Randomization description

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Not blinded

Blinding description

Placebo

Not used

Assignment

Single

Other design features

This study is a controlled clinical trial designed to investigate the effectiveness of dry needling on neuromuscular junction response and sympathetic outflow in patients with upper trapezius MTrPs compared with healthy individual matched group.

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Street address

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Enghelab Ave.,
Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Postal code

1417614411

Approval date

2012-09-17, 1391/06/27

Ethics committee reference number

2185

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

myofascial trigger point

ICD-10 code

M00-M99

ICD-10 code description

Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Neuromuscular Junction Response (NMJR)

Timepoint

before intervention and immediately after intervention

Method of measurement

Electrodiagnostic technique of repetitive nerve stimulation (RNS) in trapezius muscle

2

Description

Sympathetic Skin Response (SSR)

Timepoint

before intervention and immediately after intervention

Method of measurement

stimulus over the median nerve at the wrist and records on the palm of the hand

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Pain Intensity

Timepoint

before intervention and immediately after intervention

Method of measurement

Pain intensity will be self rated by subjects on a 0-10 numerical rating scale with 0 representing no pain and 10 representing the worst imaginable pain

2

Description

Pressure Pain Threshold

Timepoint

before intervention and immediately after intervention

Method of measurement

; by use a pressure algometer According to Kilogram per square centimeter

Intervention groups

1

Description

The sterile acupuncture needles of 0.30 mm diameter and 50 mm long will be used for both groups. The needle will be inserted into the skin over the palpated trigger point and will be advanced until it reaches the trigger point. Each trigger point will be repeatedly needled for 1 - 2 minutes.

Category

Treatment - Other

2

Description

The sterile acupuncture needles of 0.30 mm diameter and 50 mm long will be used. The needle will be inserted into the skin over the Trigger Point equivalent of upper trapezius in healthy subjects. Each point will be repeatedly needed for 1 – 2 minutes.

Category

Treatment - Other

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Electrophysiology center of School of Rehabilitation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Abbaszadeh-Amirdehi

Street address

School of Rehabilitation of Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Mirdamad Blv, Shahnazari St, Nezam St, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Mansouri

Street address

Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Enghelab Ave., Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

empty

Domestic or foreign origin

empty

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

empty

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Abbaszadeh-Amirdehi

Position

PhD candidate of physiotherapy

Other areas of specialty/work

Street address

School of Rehabilitation of Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Mirdamad Blv, Shahnazari St, Nezam St, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Postal code

Phone

+98 21 2222 8052

Fax

Email

abbaszadeh_m@razi.tums.ac.ir
maryam_abbaszadeh@yahoo.com

Web page address

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Abbaszadeh-Amirdehi

Position

PhD candidate of physiotherapy

Other areas of specialty/work

Street address

School of Rehabilitation of Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Mirdamad Blv, Shahnazari St, Nezam St, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Postal code

Phone

+98 21 2222 8052

Fax

Email

abbaszadeh_m@razi.tums.ac.ir
maryam_abbaszadeh@yahoo.com

Web page address

Person responsible for updating data

Contact

Name of organization / entity

School of Rehabilitation, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Maryam Abbaszadeh-Amirdehi

Position

PhD candidate of physiotherapy

Other areas of specialty/work

Street address

School of Rehabilitation of Tehran University of
Medical Sciences, Mirdamad Blv, Shahnazari St,
Nezam St, Tehran, Iran

City

Tehran

Postal code**Phone**

+98 21 2222 7124

Fax**Email**

abbaszadeh_m@razi.tums.ac.ir
maryam_abbaszadeh@yahoo.com

Web page address**Sharing plan****Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

empty

Study Protocol

empty

Statistical Analysis Plan

empty

Informed Consent Form

empty

Clinical Study Report

empty

Analytic Code

empty

Data Dictionary

empty