



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

COMPARISON OF THE EFFICACY OF LONG PULSED ND:YAG LASER (LPND) AND ELECTROCAUTERY IN THE TREATMENT OF VERRUCA VULGARIS

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Introduction: Warts are benign cutaneous and mucosal epithelial neoplasms caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). Treatment modalities aim at removing lesion rather than specifically targeting HPV. Laser treatment is based on photodermal or photomechanical destruction of target tissue or ablation of blood vessels.

Objective:

1. To compare the efficacy of long pulsed Nd:YAG laser and electrocautery in patients with Verruca Vulgaris
2. To compare the adverse effects associated with both procedures
3. To assess the recurrence rates following both procedures

Methodology: Study objective was to compare efficacy and adverse effects of 1064nm Long Pulsed Nd:YAG laser and electrocautery in common warts. Convenience sampling was done. 30 lesions each were treated with LPND and electrocautery, and followed up after 1 month. Resolution and side effects were assessed. Further treatment was continued if required. All responded patients were followed up after 3 months to assess recurrence.

Results: A total of 32 patients with 60 lesions were included. LPND was done for 30 lesions and electrocautery for 30. Out of 30 lesions treated with LPND, 18 (60%) showed complete resolution and 4 (13%) showed no improvement, whereas 12 (40%) lesions out of 30 treated by electrocautery showed complete resolution and 3 (10%) showed none. Rest showed partial resolution. However, 5 (17%) and 16 (53%) patients who underwent laser and electrocautery respectively had recurrence. Side effects like hyperpigmentation, scarring and secondary infection were seen more in those treated with electrocautery than LPND. No scarring was seen in lesions treated with LPND.

Conclusion: LPND showed better results than electrocautery in terms of resolution of warts, side effect profile and recurrence. Patient compliance was better with LPND. LPND is a safe and effective treatment for Verruca Vulgaris, while causing minimal discomfort.

