



QUALITY OF LIFE, QUALITY OF CARE, AND PATIENT SAFETY

PLATELET-RICH PLASMA (PRP) IN MALE AND FEMALE GENITAL LICHEN SCLEROSUS: THE IMPACT ON TISSUE REPAIR AND SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

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Background: Lichen sclerosus (LS) is an inflammatory skin disease that usually involves the anogenital area. The gold standard for treatment remains potent to very potent topical steroids; however, other relatively new techniques and therapies, such as Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP), are of interest.

Objective: Evaluate the efficacy of treatment with PRP in reducing symptoms and improving the hydration of the genital mucosa. A sample of male and female patients has been studied to determine whether there are gender-related differences in the therapeutic response.

Methods: 50 patients (males and females aged between 18 and 75 years) were enrolled in the study. All patients were evaluated before and after PRP treatment using a short questionnaire for assessing pain (BPI). The procedure was carried out at the Plastic Surgery clinic of our hospital (ISG). The study protocol consisted of 3 repeated treatments at 15 day away. Approximately 4 ml of PRP were injected in the involved areas in each treatment. In females, the PRP was injected into posterior fork, clitoris and labia minor. In men, the PRP was injected into the 4 cardinal points of the affected area.

Results: The major symptoms reported before PRP treatment were itching, burning, pain and dyspareunia. All symptoms were more common in females rather than males. By the Spearman's test, the variable gender reached statistical significance ($p=0.04$), while the





age and comorbidity did not reached statistical significance.

Conclusion: This study found that there are significant gender differences in symptoms and response to therapy. Women seem to have more disease-related symptoms than men. PRP seems to be an effective treatment in cases where LS does not respond to topical corticosteroid therapy.

