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# A Three-Phase Evaluation of Pulsed, High Frequency, Radio Short Waves (Diapulse). 646 Patients

Bruce M. Cameron, M.D.

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CAMERON: DIAPULSE

	A	С
Males	2	5
Females	4	3
Same	4	6
Better	2	2
Worse	0	0
6. O. 5th Day Yes	1	2
No	5	6
urgery Abdomen Back Neck-Chest Kidney. Extremity	4 1 1 0 0	5 1 1 0 1
Гоtal	6	8

	А	С
Males	10	4
Females	19	24
Same	10	7
Better	18	20
Worse	1	1
S. O. 5th Day Yes	8	17
No	21	11
Surgery Abdomen Back Neck-Chest Kidney Extremity	18 4 3 1 3	16 4 2 2 4
Total	29	28

#### TABLE 1-20-30 YRS (STUDY #1).

# INTRODUCTION

In 1961 it was reported that there was evidence that the use of pulsed, high-frequency radio short waves stimulated wound healing in animals,1 As a follow-up to this work, three more studies have been undertaken:

1. A 100 patient, double-blind study on wound healing in surgical patients.

2. An 81 patient, non-controlled study on wound healing in orthopedic, surgical patients.

3. A 465 patient study, non-controlled on non-surgical, orthopedic patients.

These observations are included because it was reasoned that if there were a stimulus to wound-healing (one of the simplest of all reparative processes), then there would be a stimulus to the healing of sprains, contusions, and other conditions requiring the same repairative processes.

Hence, this study comprises clinical observations on 646 patients.

	Α	С
Males	1	1
Females	4	2
20-30 Yrs	1	1
31-50 Yrs	3	2
51-75 Yrs	1	0
Same	3	2
Better	1	1
Worse	1	0
S. O. 5th Day Yes	1	2
No	4	1
Total	5	3

TABLE V-NECK AND CHEST SURGERY (STUDY #1).

TABLE II-31-50 YEARS (STUDY #1). MATERIALS AND METHODS 1. The 100 patient, double blind study: these were

consecutive, unselected, surgical cases performed at a local hospital in Houston, Texas. The surgeons were contacted and asked for permission to use this modality

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on their cases. Most of the physicians were unfamiliar with Diapulse, but when reassured that it would not be harmful, agreed to its application. For their cooperation, this author is grateful. None of the author's cases were used.

A	с
2	2
3	5
0	1
3	4
2	2
3	0
2	7
0	0
1	7
4	0
5	7
	2 3 0 3 2 3 2 0 1 4

TABLE VI-EXTREMITY SURGERY (STUDY #1).

#### DRUGS AND DEVICES

	А	с
Males	5	4
Females	10	10
Same	12	4
Better	2	10
Worse	1	0
S. O. 5th Day Yes	0	5
No	15	9
Surgery Abdomen Back. Neck-Chest. Kidney. Extremity.	12 0 1 0 2	11 1 0 2
Total	15	14

TABLE III-51-75 YEARS (STUDY #1).

The patients were divided into two groups of 50 each (Groups A and C). In the A group, the machine was adjusted so that it would not operate, but gave the appearance of doing so; in group C, the machine operated normally.

One technician was used for all cases and neither he nor the patients knew which was the effective machine. Neither the concerned surgeon nor the author knew which machine was effective; the only person who did was a secretary whose responsibility it was to keep the records.

	Α	c
Males	12	7
Females	22	25
20-30 Yrs	4	6
31-50 Yrs	19	15
51-75 Yrs	11	11
Same	19	13
Better	14	18
Worse	1	1
S. O. 5th Day Yes	7	9
No	27	23
Total	34	32

TABLE VII-ABDOMINAL SURGERY (STUDY #1).

	-
A	с
0	0
1	2
0	0
1	2
0	0
0	1
1	1
0	0
0	0
1	2
1	2
	0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 0

TABLE IV-KIDNEY SURGERY (STUDY #1).

Each patient was treated twice a day, four days: 20 minutes over the liver and 20 minutes over the wound (400 pulses, 4 inches penetration). At the end of the total treatment, the surgeon was given a questionnaire which asked whether or not the patient's post-operative condition was the same, better, or worse (as compared with his other patients, in his experience, with similar conditions). It also asked whether or not the sutures were removed on or before the fifth post-operative day, and he was asked for further comments.

The secretary checked the records later as to dismissal date to ascertain patient days and to check other pertinent information: age, sex, type of incision, and area of surgery.

2. The 81 patient study: these were unselected, consecutive, orthopedic, surgical patients, who were operated between July, 1961 and May, 1962. These were routine procedures; and in the hospital, they were all given the routine, four-day treatment with an active machine as outlined in the 100 patient double-blind study. These

	А	С
Males	2	3
Females	3	3
20-30 Yrs	1	0
31-50 Yrs	3	5
51-75 Yrs	1	1
Same	1	1
Better	4	5
Worse	0	0
S. O. 5th Day Yes	0	6
No	5	0
Total	5	6

TABLE VIII-BACK SURGERY (STUDY #1).

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	Α	с
Males	10	6
Females	16	11
20-30 Yrs	4	6
31-50 Yrs	10	7
51-75 Yrs	12	4
S. O. 5th Day Yes	2	4
No	24	13
Total	26	17

TABLE IX-"SAME" GROUP (STUDY #1).

patients were studied in the same fashion outlined above and the results compared.

3. The 465 patient study of non-operative cases:

		pital ays	N Pati			ient ays
Type of Surgery	A	С	A	С	A	С
Abdomen	362	295	34	32	10.6	9
Back	46	58	5	6	9	9
Neck and Chest	33	19	5	3	6.6	5.1
Extremity	65	80	5	7	13	11
Kidney	10	19	1	2	10	9

TABLE XIII-HOSPITAL DAYS-POST SURGICAL (STUDY #1).

these were consecutive office, orthopedic patients on whom this modality was used. The usual routine was to administer this twice a day, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for two weeks; then twice a day on Monday and Friday; then once a week, twice that day. It was used as an **adjunct** to the other well known methods of therapy, and in no case was it the sole treatment if other methods were indicated.

The patients were studied as to age, sex, length of treatment, diagnosis, and results.

Time	Number	Percent
1-7 Days	14	3.0
1-2 Weeks	32	6.9
2-3 Weeks	20	4.3
3-4 Weeks	51	11.0
1-2 Months	77	16.5
2-3 Months	35	7.5
3-4 Months	60	12.9
4-5 Months	31	6.7
5-6 Months	44	9.5
6 + Months	101	21.7
TOTAL	465	100.0

TABLE XVII-LENGTH OF TREATMENT (STUDY #3).

	А	с
Males	1	0
Females	1	1
30-50 Yrs	1	1
51-75 Yrs	1	0
S. O. 5th Day Yes	0	0
No	2	1
Total	2	1

RESULTS

The 100 patient double-blind study. Apparently the effect of age was equivocal. There was as much stimulation in the old as the young (Table I-III).

Post Si	urgic.	al Average Days 9.8	
Total Patients	81	Total Post Surgical Days	786
Same Better Worse	69 69	S. O. 5th Day Yes No	70
Females	44	Surgery Back Extremity	38 42
Males	37	20-30 Yrs 31-50 Yrs 51-75 Yrs	18 49 14

#### TABLE XIV-DIAPULSE SURGICAL PATIENTS (STUDY #2).

Site of surgery: in extremity and back surgery all treated patients had their sutures removed by the fifth post-op day; and out of 13 patients, 12 were reported as better. There was not enough kidney, and neck and chest surgery to be significant. The results of abdominal surgery showed a very little improvement with treatment and little or no improvement as regards removal of sutures. Fourteen on the untreated group were reported as better which suggests a psychological response (Tables IV-VIII).

The groups analyzed as to same, better and worse showed that only one was made worse (this was a moribund, cancer patient), 32 better, and 17 remained the same. In the untreated group, 26 remained the same, 22 had a psychological stimulation, and two were made

Diagnosis	Number	Percent	Complications	No.
Cervical Spine	116	24.9		
Dorsal Spine	17	3.6	Septic Arthritis	3
Lumbar Spine	119	25.6	-	
Sacrum	12	2.6	Rheumatoid A	6
Upper Extremity Fractures	37	8.0	Hypertrophic A.	37
Upper Extremity General	30	6.5	Gouty Arthritia	10
Lower Extremity Fractures,	61	13.1	Osteoporosis,	17
Lower Extremity General	73	15.7	Osteomyslitis	11
Total	485	100.0		84

TABLE XVIII-DIAGNOSES (STUDY #3).

#### DRUGS AND DEVICES

	A	С
Males	7	7
Females	15	25
20-30 Yrs	2	2
31-50 Yrs	18	20
51-75 Yrs	2	10
S. O. 5th Day Yes	7	20
No	15	12
Total	22	32

TABLE XI-"BETTER" GROUP (STUDY #1).

worse by no treatment (Tables IX-XI).

Total patient evaluation: the results showed stimulation of wound healing to a conservative degree. Most of the

Sex	Number	Percent
Males	241	51.8
Females	224	48.2
Total	465	100.0

patients who had their sutures removed by the fifth day were orthopedic cases and this may have something to do with the report by Erdman of peripheral stimu-

lation. It may also be related to the fact that abdominal surgeons are loath to remove their sutures early for fear of wound dehiscence, although 18 were reported as improved (Table XII).

The hospital days were analyzed and in every case except the backs there was a moderate reduction of hospitalization (Table XIII).

## THE 81 PATIENT STUDY

This is recorded in Table XIV. It essentially demonstrates a short hospital stay, in spite of the fact that some of the cases were those of osteomyelitis.

# THE 465 PATIENT STUDY

There was no appreciable difference between males and females (Table XV). There were 49.4 percent between 30 and 50 years of age and less than 2 percent under 10 years of age (Table XVI).

Grade	Number	Percent
Excellent	284	61.3
Good	106	22.6
Fair	49	10.5
Poor	26	5.6
+ Total	465	100.0

TABLE XIX-RESULTS (STUDY #3).

	Α	
Males	17	
Females	33	
20-30 Yrs	6	- -
31-50 Yrs	29	-
51-75 Yrs	15	
Same	26	

31-50 Yrs	29	28
51-75 Yrs	15	14
Same	26	17
Better	22	32
Worse	2	1
S. O. 5th Day Yes	9	24
No	41	26
Total Treated	50	50

С

TABLE XII-TOTAL PATIENT EVALUATION (STUDY #1).

Age	Number	Percent
0–10 years	8	1.7
10-20 years	56	12.1
20–30 years	69	14.8
30-40 years	117	25.1
40-50 years	113	24.3
50–60 years	65	14.0
60 + years	37	8.0
Total	465	100.0

TABLE XVI-AGE (STUDY #3).

The length of treatment varied from one day to over six months. Only 3 percent responded within one week; 6.9 percent within two weeks; 4.3 percent within three weeks and 11 percent within one month. Sixteen percent

Type of Treatment	Number
Clinic Physiotherapy*	158
Traction	65
Steroids (Joint Injection)	57
Supports (Neck and Back)	154
Exercises	96
Muscle Relaxants	209
Plaster of Paris Casts	69
Conservative Care in Hospital	57
Surgery	163
Diet	18
Total	1,046

\* Clinic Physiotherapy consisted of heat and massage. TABLE XX-OTHER TREATMENT (STUDY #3).

## CAMERON: DIAPULSE

responded within one to two months. Thus, 41.7 percent responded within two months treatment, whereas 21.7 percent received therapy six months or more (Table XVII).

Diagnosis was listed as to site: one of the various parts of the spine and the upper and lower extremities. The diagnoses have about the same percentages as to type as is found in any orthopedic office. Over 50 percent of the cases were from conditions of the spine, whereas the rest were of the extremities. Secondary diagnosis normal routine (Table XXII). Fair meant that the patient had low grade symtomatology causing him not to be disabled but which required conservative management such as aspirin, heat, and massage: however, they apparently had been helped by the Diapulse treatment (Table XXIII). Poor results were the patients who consistently had stiffness of joints, tenderness, spasm, and who complained of pain, gross disability, and were unable to work. This group was not helped by the treatment administered and it was obvious that they needed

scription		N	umber	Per	cent	
Males Females					55.0 45.0	
Total			284	10	0.0	
0-10 Years	•••••		6 37 52 74 58	1 1 2 2	2.0 3.1 8.3 6.1 0.4	
50-60 Years			39 18		3.7 6.4	
Total		-	284	10	0.0	
1-7 Days. 1-2 Weeks 2-3 Weeks 3-4 Weeks 1-2 Months. 2-3 Months. 3-4 Months. 5-6 Months. 6 + Months.		· · · · · · · · · · · ·	10 23 17 31 62 23 45 18 25 30	1 2 1	3.5 8.0 0.9 1.9 8.1 5.9 6.3 8.8 0.6	
Total	•••••		284	10	0.0	
Diagnosis	Number	Percent	3.3 4.2 Septic Arthritis 5.0 7.1 Rheumatoid A. 7.4 Gouty Arthritis 7.3 Osteoporosis.		No.	
Cervical Spine Corsal Spine Lumbar Spine Saerum Upper Extremity Fractures Lower Extremity General Lower Extremity General	66 12 71 6 27 21 35 46	23.3 4.2 25.0 2.1 9.5 7.4 12.3 16.2			1 3 14 2 7 6	
Total	284	100.0			33	
Description				Nur	nber	
Clinic Physiotherapy. Traction. Steroids (Joint Injecti Supports (Neck and Ba Exercises. Muscle Relaxants Platter of Paris Casts. Conservative Care in H Surgery. Diet.	on) ack)			12	8	

Description		N	umber	Perc	ent
Males			55		2.0
Females			51	48	3.0
Total				100	.0
0-10 Years			2		.9
10-20 Years			11		1.4
20-30 Years			11 25		).4 1.6
30-40 Years 40-50 Years			31		.2
50-60 Years.			15		.1
60 + Years			11		.4
Total			106	100	0.0
1-7 Days			37	2	2.8
1-2 Weeks					i.6
2-3 Weeks			1		.9
3-4 Weeks			16 13		.2
1–2 Months 2–3 Months			10		.4
3–4 Months.			8		.5
4-5 Months			10		1.4
5-6 Months			10		1.4
6 + Months	•••••		28	26	i.4
Total	•••••		106	100	1.0
Diagnosis	Number	Percent	Complications		No.
Cervical Spine	25	24.5			
Dorsal Spine	3	2.8	Septic Arthr	ltis	2
Lumbar Spine Sacrum	26	24.5 3.8	Hypertrophi		12
Upper Extremity Fractures	8	7.5	Gouty Arthr	like	4
Unner Extremity General	5	4.7	Osteoporosi		4
Lower Extremity Fractures	18	16.9	Osteomyellt	19	4
Lower Extremity General	17	16.0			
Total	106	100.0			26
Description				Nun	iber
Clinic Physiotherapy.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	3	1
Traction.				1	
Traction Steroids (Joint Injection	on)			1	3
Supports (Neck and Ba	ick)			4	
Exercises Muscle Relaxants	• • • • • • • • • •			2	9
Plaster of Paris Casts.	• • • • • • • • • •			2	6
	ospital			1	
Conservative Care in H				4	
Conservative Care in H Surgery					۷.
Conservative Care in H				*	7

#### TABLE XXI-EXCELLENT RESULT (STUDY #3).

included the various types of arthridities, the most common being hypertrophic arthritis (Table XVIII).

The results shown in Table XIX were rated as Excellent (61.3%), Good (22.6%), Fair (10.5%) or Poor (5.6%). Excellent meant that the patient had no symptoms which would disable him from work and that he did not need further immediate care (Table XXI). Good meant that the patient responded well to therapy; however, this recovery was not as dramatic as the excellent group. All the good group were dismissed from further immediate treatment and then returned to

TABLE XXII-GOOD RESULT (STUDY #3).

another type of therapy such as surgery. Some of these were psychoneurotic who did not respond to anything (Table XXIV).

In no case was this the only modality used. Most often, it was combined with another type of treatment and as an adjunct. Most of these are listed in Table XX and indicate conservative management in all but 163 operations. The total is listed as 1,046, and no attempt was made to break down each therapy per patient.

The excellent results were analyzed in Table XXI and it was found that there were no outstanding pointers

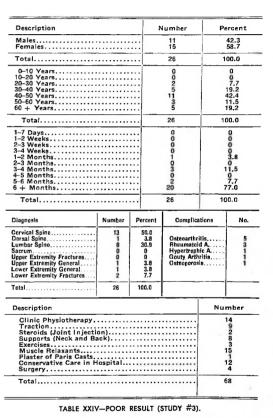
# DRUGS AND DEVICES

in sex and age, but over 40 percent responded within two months and the second largest between three and four months. Ten required more than six months treatment. The breakdown as to location was not remarkable and there were 33 secondary diagnoses. Most of the operations were in this group.

The good results in Table XXII show no difference as to age or sex but demonstrate that more than 26 percent required more than six months treatment, but over 40 percent responded within one to two months. The locaIn the poor results (Table XXIV) there were 16 percent more females and most were between 30 and 50 years of age. None had any response within one month, and only 3.8 percent showed any improvement within two months. About 85 percent had treatment between five and six months plus without response.

Over 80 percent of diagnoses were within the spine and 50 percent of the total were in the neck. Treatment consisted mainly of physiotherapy, muscle relaxants, and traction; and only four of these were operated.

Description		1	Number	Pe	rcent
Males			19		38.7
Females	• • • • • • • • • •		30		51.3
Total				10	0.0
0-10 Years			0		0
10-20 Years			8		6.3
20-30 Years	• • • • • • • • • •	•••	4 13		8.2
30-40 Years 40-50 Years		• • •	13		6.5
50-60 Years.			8		6.3
60 + Years			8		6.2
Total			49	10	0.0
1-7 Days			1		2.0
1-2 Weeks			2 0 7 1 2 4 3 7 22		4.0
2-3 Weeks			0	0	0
3-4 Weeks			7		4.3
1-2 Months		• - •	1		2.0
2-3 Months		•••	2		4.1
3-4 Months.			4		8.2
4-5 Months 5-6 Months	•••••	•••	37		6.2 4.3
6 + Months			22		4.3
Total			49	10	0.0
Diagnosis	Number	Percent	Complica	tions	No.
Corvical Spino	12	24.4			
Dorsal Spino	1	2.0			
Lumbar Spino.	14	28.6	Hypertroph Gouty Arth	IC A	53
Sacrum. Upper Extremity Fractures	2	4.1 4.1	Osteonoros	FILIS	5
Upper Extremity Fractores	-	6.2	Osleomyel	15	1
Upper Extremity General	236	12.2	Caleomyen	115	
Lower Extremity General	9	18.4			
Total	49	100.0			14
Description				Nur	nber
Ollar Dianta th					
Clinic Physiotherapy.				2	22
Traction. Steroids (Joint Injection		•••••			6
Supports (Neck and Ba	(k)	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • •	1	8
Exercises					9
Muscle Belavants				2	9
Plaster of Paris Casts.					Ğ
Plaster of Paris Casts. Conservative Care in H	ospital				69
				1	3
Surgery					
Surgery Diet					5



#### TABLE XXIII-FAIR RESULT (STUDY #3).

tion of diagnosis was almost the same as the excellent group and there were 26 secondary diagnoses. There were 42 operations here compared to 106 in the excellent group.

The fair results (Table XXIII) demonstrated that there were 23 percent more females and the age group was about the same. Almost 60 percent had treatment between five and six months plus and failed to respond. The location of diagnosis was the same, and treatment consisted mainly of clinic physiotherapy, supports, and muscle relaxants; there were 13 surgeries. It is apparent from this study that more females became chronic, that most patients responded to an excellent or good result within two months and relatively few within two weeks. The older age group was in the poor result and there was no appreciable significance to response as to age in the excellent, good, or fair results. About 150 cases of surgery responded in a good and excellent fashion, whereas 17 were in the fair-poor group.

The group which responded in the good to excellent results within three weeks constituted less than 20 percent of the total.

### CONCLUSIONS

The use of pulsed, high-frequency, radio short waves as an agent of wound healing was found to be of moderate value in a preliminary 100 patient double-blind study. There has been an improvement in the general condition, in the early removal of sutures, and in the shortening of hospitalization. One case was made worse by treatment, but this was a moribund cancer patient who subsequently died. The most pronounced effect was noted in extremity and back surgery and the least in abdominal surgery. Nothwithstanding skepticsm and doubt, this initial study demonstrated conservative, favorable results which warrant further investigation.

It is the opinion of this observer that these results in the 465 patient study are as objective as can be. Acute trauma and conditions such as bursitis, sprains and strains seem to have responded the best. However, from these statistics it is apparent that less than 20 percent were well within three to four weeks, which is about what one would expect normally, in a large practice. It is difficult to say statistically, for certain whether Diapulse helped these acute conditions consistently or not, although it is the author's impression that it did. Who, really, can be statistically positive about human beings with all their variables?

In the chronic cases (three months or more) it is again difficult to say whether or not Diapulse was an aid because most of these cases respond within that length of time, notwithstanding. More work is indicated

to find the exact role of treatment that Diapulse should play in the treatment of patients, but for certain, no one of this group was harmed by the treatment.

Again, it is the impression that it is excellent in acute conditions such as wounds, acute inflammation, septic conditions, acute sprains and strains; but this cannot be verified by objective, statistical studies at the present time. Just as this cannot be verified, it cannot specifically be denied. This last statement is based on the fact that here were six excellent results of osteomyelitis, one excellent result of septic arthritis, and four good results on osteomyelitis, one fair result of osteomyelitis, and two good results in septic arthritis.

Although in Tables XXI-XXIV various types of arthridities are listed as complications, this is by no means a statement that Diapulse healed arthritis, gout, osteoporosis, or osteomyelitis. It was used as an aid to treatment and an excellent result from osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis was obtained by arthrodesis, etc. Gout, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoporosis, and osteomyclitis were all placed upon appropriate treatment with Diapulse as an aid and there were excellent to good results as noted. This is again to emphasize that Diapulse does not cure arthritis.

I think it would be most helpful if someone would fully analyze 500 consecutive cases in a busy orthopedist's office whose patients were not given Diapulse and compare their results to these.

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