Fecal Incontinence Responses to Posterior Tibial Nerve Stimulation in Partial Spinal Cord Injured Patients

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Abstract

Purpose of the study: To investigate the effect of posterior tibial nerve stimulation in patients with fecal incontinence (FI) due to partial spinal cord injuries (SCI). Subjects and methods: Thirty volunteer patients (23 male and 7 female) diagnosed with FI due to spinal cord injuries, mean age 29±2.7 years. They were assigned randomly into two equal groups. The study group (G 1) received posterior tibial nerve stimulation (PTNS) for 30 minutes and pelvic floor exercises while the control group (G 2) received sham PTNS and pelvic floor exercises. The treatment program was conducted three times per week, for twelve weeks. Assessment was done before and after treatment by measuring anal resting pressure, maximum squeeze pressure, Wexner incontinence score and fecal incontienece quality of life scale. Results: Statistical analysis revealed that there was a significant improvement in both groups but in favour of G (1) which showed a highly significant improvement. Conclusion: PTNS can be an effective method for treating FI caused by partial SCI.

Key words: Fecal Incontinence, Spinal Cord Injuries, Posterior Tibial Nerve, Anal Pressure.