

## PERCUTANEOUS OZONE DISCOLYSIS FOR LUMBAR DISK HERNIATION

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Since 6 years, beside microsurgical or endoscopic treatment, we have been performing percutaneous discolysis by O2O3.

The aim of this paper is the analysis of the results obtained on a series of 1208 patients operated on between 1994 and 1997.

After having received 2 to 8 paravertebral injections, the patient has been hospitalized for undergoing intradiscal O2O3 injection.

The injection is performed via the classic lateral extrarticular approach.

Discography has always been performed. It is compulsory and indispensable.

Among the 1208 patients symptoms were abolished in 987 (81.7%), 164 (13.5%) got better, 57 (4.7%) had a minor improvement.

Regression of sensory troubles was complete in 79% (955 cases), partial in 17.3%(211 cases) and insignificant in 3.4% (42 cases).

Motor dysfunction was present in 580 cases(48%), it was severe in 53 (9.1%).

Motor recovery was complete in 376 out of 580 (64.8%), partial in 128 (22%), irrelevant in 76(13.1%).

Particularly among the 53 severe cases we observed complete recovery in 9 (16.9%), partial recovery in 16 (30.1%) and insatisfactory result in 28 (52.8%).

The 76 patients who didn't improve underwent surgery.

Pre and post-discolytic EMG study: recovery in 69 out of the 80 cases studied for S1 level(86.2%), in 82 out of 102 cases with L5 level (80.32%), and in 88 out of the 115 cases with L4 level(76.5%).

314 out of 1208 were patients suffering a recurrency after open surgery.

O2O3 management gave excellent result in 85 (27%), good result in 144 (45.8%), unsatisfactory in 26.9%: 85 cases. O2O3 treatment for intraforaminal hernias (129cases) gave excellent results in 26 (20.1%), good in 81(62.7%), while unsatisfactory results were observed in 22 cases, which underwent surgery.

CT/MRI control was performed in 612 patients 5months after discolysis.

251 hernias presented a volume reduction (41%), and in 226 cases (37%) pathology was solved. 135 cases (22%) had remained unmodified.

A new CT/MRI control 5 months later in 200 among the cases with partial reduction, revealed further reduction in 44 (22%).

120 cases among the "unmodified" group, investigated and showed improvement in 14 cases (11.6%).