

# The effectiveness of manual therapy or pulsed shortwave diathermy (PSWD) in addition to exercise and advice for neck disorders; a pragmatic study in physiotherapy clinics

|                                        |                                                       |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Submission date</b><br>15/07/2002   | <b>Recruitment status</b><br>No longer recruiting     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered    |
| <b>Registration date</b><br>15/07/2002 | <b>Overall study status</b><br>Completed              | <input type="checkbox"/> Protocol                    |
| <b>Last Edited</b><br>05/01/2011       | <b>Condition category</b><br>Musculoskeletal Diseases | <input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan   |
|                                        |                                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results          |
|                                        |                                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data |

## Plain English summary of protocol

Not provided at time of registration

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Krysia Dziedzic

### Contact details

Primary Care Sciences Research Centre  
Keele University  
Keele  
United Kingdom  
ST5 5BG  
+44 (0)1782 583907  
k.s.dziedzic@cphc.keele.ac.uk

## Additional identifiers

### Protocol serial number

D0566

## Study information

## **Scientific Title**

### **Acronym**

The PANTHER study

### **Study objectives**

To determine whether manual therapy or pulsed shortwave diathermy (PSWD), in addition to advice and exercise, provide better clinical outcome at six months than advice and exercise alone in primary care patients with nonspecific neck disorders.

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

Ethical approval was granted by the West Midlands Multicenter Research Ethics Committee and 10 local Research Ethics Committees.

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study design**

Randomised controlled trial

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Non-specific neck pain

### **Interventions**

1. Manual therapy: defined as hands-on, passive or active assisted movements/mobilisations, graded as appropriate to the patient's signs and symptoms
2. PSWD: delivered according to the best available evidence appropriate for UK clinical practice. It is not prescriptive but incorporates professional guidelines to good practice.
3. No additional treatment to advice and exercise

All subjects receive a standard package of home exercises, advice and an information leaflet about care of their neck based on the ARC publication. Further management of the patients in the no manual therapy/no PSWD group is based on this information.

### **Intervention Type**

Other

### **Phase**

Not Specified

### **Primary outcome(s)**

Change in self-reported neck pain related disability at six months as measured on the Northwick Park Neck Pain Questionnaire.

**Key secondary outcome(s)**

1. Participants' global assessment of change compared with baseline
2. Average pain severity over the past three days
3. Severity rating of main problem
4. Number of days lost from paid employment
5. Co-interventions e.g. visits to general practitioner (GP), use of analgesia
6. Quality of life (EuroQoL EQ-5D) and 12-item short form health survey (SF-12)

**Completion date**

31/12/2002

**Eligibility****Key inclusion criteria**

1. Males and females aged 18 years and over
2. Clinical diagnosis of neck pain and/or stiffness, including unilateral referred pain into the arm
3. No consultations for this problem with health care professionals other than the Primary Health Care Team in the previous six months
4. Ability to understand and to cooperate and capable of giving written informed consent

**Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Lower age limit**

18 Years

**Sex**

All

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Weight loss
2. Fever
3. Progressive neurological signs including bilateral arm pain
4. Evidence of muscle weakness or disturbance in normal sensation
5. History of malignancy
6. Inflammatory arthritis
7. Polymyalgia rheumatica
8. Osteoporosis or gross structural or neurological abnormality affecting the neck
9. Contra-indications to the study treatments (e.g. patients on anti-coagulants)
10. Any injury awaiting a compensation claim (e.g. deceleration or industrial injury)
11. Pregnancy

**Date of first enrolment**

01/09/2000

**Date of final enrolment**

31/12/2002

## Locations

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

Primary Care Sciences Research Centre

Keele

United Kingdom

ST5 5BG

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

Arthritis Research Campaign (ARC) (UK)

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/02jkpm469>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**

Charity

**Funder Name**

Arthritis Research Campaign (UK)

## Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan****IPD sharing plan summary**

Not provided at time of registration

**Study outputs**

| Output type                     | Details | Date created | Date added | Peer reviewed? | Patient-facing? |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <a href="#">Results article</a> | Results | 15/04/2005   |            | Yes            | No              |