

## **EFFECTIVENESS OF PREGABALIN COMPARED WITH AMYTRIPTILIN IN ACUTE HERPETIC NEURALGIA**

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**BACKGROUND:** Acute Herpetic Neuralgia (AHN) associated with the outbreak of a herpes zoster rash.

It characterized by burning, aching, electric shock like pain, unbearable itching. It affecting about 10-15% of those with herpes zoster.

**AIM:** To determine the effectiveness of Pregabalin compared with Amytriptilin in AHN.

**METHODOLOGY:** 28pts (18-60 y.o) with were included in the study.

The 150mg Pregabalin and 50mg Amytriptilin tablets prepared respectively by Hospital of Shkodra Pharmacy. The treatment (Pregabalin n=16 or Amytriptilin n=12) was randomly assigned using a computerized table of random numbers. At study entry for the Pregabalina Patients (T0), patients started treatment with one tablet twice a day during the first week, gradually increasing to two tablets twice a day starting from the second week; and for Amytriptilin patients at the study entry (T0), patients started treatment with half tablet twice a day during the first week, gradually increasing to two tablets twice a day starting from the second week. Pain intensity was evaluated at T0 for the three consecutive months (T1, T2, T3), using the 100mm Visual Analog Scale (VAS) for pain, ranging from "no pain" to "worst possible pain". Statistical analysis was performed with SPSS13,0. The significance level was established at P0,05.

**RESULTS:** Pregabalina significantly, reduced pain in AHN subjects, since astatistically significant effect was observed between groups (Pregabalina and placebo, p0,05), in mean VAS for pain and for Pregabalina group in a within group analysis over time (P0,05). Post hoc comparisons showed a significant difference P0,05 on comparing VAS scores at T0 with those recorded at T2(=11) and T3 (n=10) for the Pregabalina group, compared with Amytriptilin group.