

Citations

Concise summaries of recent journal articles chosen for clinical significance

Carbon dioxide laser an effective treatment of plantar verruca

Mancuso JE, Abramow SP, Dimichino BR, et al, Medical Arts Center Hospital, New York: Carbon dioxide laser management of plantar verruca: A 6-year follow-up survey. *J Foot Surg May/June 1991; 30:238-243.*

The overall success rate of treating plantar verruca with carbon

dioxide laser vaporization was 75%. Success rate was highest with solitary untreated verrucae and lowest with multiple recalcitrant lesions (Table). "Solitary" lesions were defined as up to three lesions widely spaced on one foot.

Questionnaires were obtained from 166 patients with a total of 494 solitary, multiple, or mosaic lesions. The patients had received primary, secondary, or tertiary

treatment for plantar verruca with a carbon dioxide laser and were followed up for 3 months to 6 years.

Ultimate success rate ranged from 93% for solitary lesions to 62% for multiple recalcitrant lesions. Postoperative complications, which were minimal, included hyperkeratotic scar tissue (5% of patients) and sterile abscess (4%).

The authors recommend that laser treatment of plantar verruca be initiated early, while the lesion is solitary and before other treatment has been attempted. They point out, however, that the ultimate success rate after a second or third vaporization with a carbon dioxide laser was higher than after only one primary treatment. The authors' conclusion: carbon dioxide laser management is a viable alternative to more traditional treatments of plantar verruca.

Table – Successful treatments of plantar verruca with carbon dioxide laser vaporization in 166 patients (%)

	Virgin lesion		Recalcitrant lesion	
	Solitary	Multiple	Solitary	Multiple
After single treatment	81	52.5	51	40
After two or more treatments	93	70	74	62