

# Retrospective evaluation of the transdermal application of Capsaicin (Qutenza®) in different diagnosis of neuropathic pain

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## Introduction

Capsaicin is a natural alkaloid, acting on TRPA-1 and TRPV-1 receptors. The 8% transdermal patch contains 640mcg/cm<sup>2</sup> of capsaicin, and is used to treat neuropathic pain in adults.

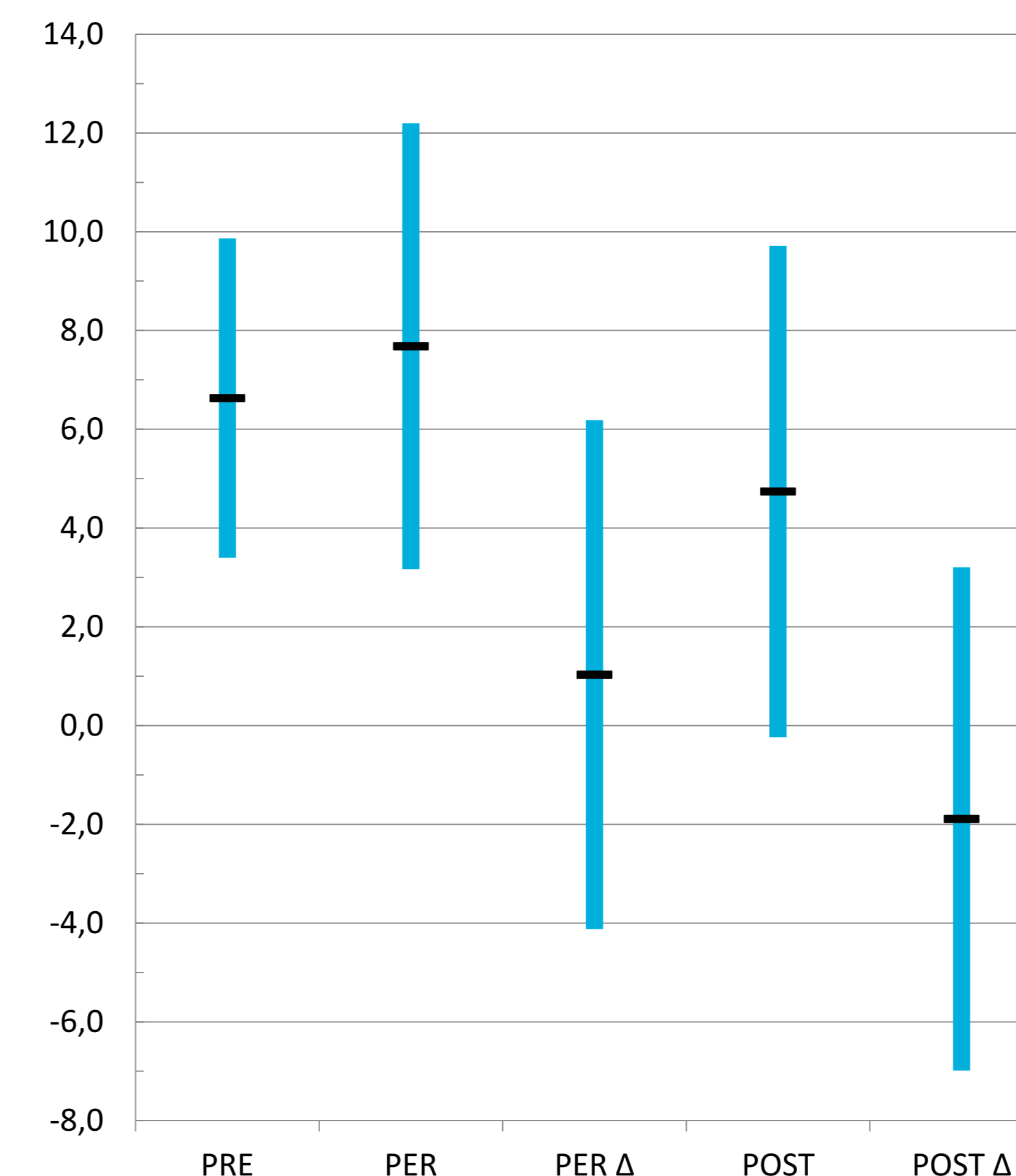
## Methods

Retrospective evaluation of treatment effects for all patients treated with capsaicin 8% patch (Qutenza®) for neuropathic pain due to scarring, post herpetic neuralgia (PHN), polyneuropathy (PNP) and peripheral nerve damage (PND) in our hospital. Data presented as average (SD).

## Results

- **General:**
  - 269 treatments in 159 subjects.
- **Pain scores (NRS)** were 6.63 (1.54) before and 4.73 (2.40) 2 weeks after treatment (difference -1.90 (2.46)).
- **NRS-differences** before versus 2 weeks after treatment for
  - PNP (n = 34) -3.05 (2.63),
  - PND (n = 59) -2.57 (2.76),
  - scarring (n = 110) -1.41 (2.36),
  - PHN (n = 52) -1.38 (1.90)
- **NRS-differences** before versus 2 weeks after treatment for
  - First treatments (n = 159) -0.97 (2.16),
  - Further treatments (n = 110) -3.17 (2.29)

- \*1: NRS-scores before, during (difference from baseline) and 2 weeks after (difference from baseline) application of Qutenza®.



## Conclusion

- NRS scores did not differ significantly before versus 2 weeks after treatment for all patients and 4 subgroups. The difference in effect between first and further treatments, and reports of the presence for allodynia predicting better outcome, makes it interesting to investigate if selection criteria can be identified.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, we will evaluate further available data and prospective studies should be undertaken.

<sup>1</sup> Derry et al, Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2013