

# Patients experience more effect of chronic pain treatment than pain scores show

Jacqueline F.M. van Dijk, Hedi W.A. Walravens  
Pain Clinic, Division of Anesthesiology, University Medical Center Utrecht, the Netherlands

**Objectives:** For pain management of neuropathic pain, patients can be treated with a high-concentrated capsaicin 8% patch (Qutenza™). The effect evaluation occurred two weeks after the treatment. The aim of this study was to describe the effect of the capsaicin patch for all new patients.

**Methods:** From October 2010 to July 2015, 144 new patients were treated with a capsaicin patch. In a database was described: the indication for treatment, a pain score before and after the treatment on a Numeric Rating Scale (NRS), percentage of pain relief in patient's opinion, the Patients' Global Impression of Change (PGIC), the duration of effect in weeks, and the number of patches used per treatment.

**PGIC: Very much improved (1) – Very much worse (7)**

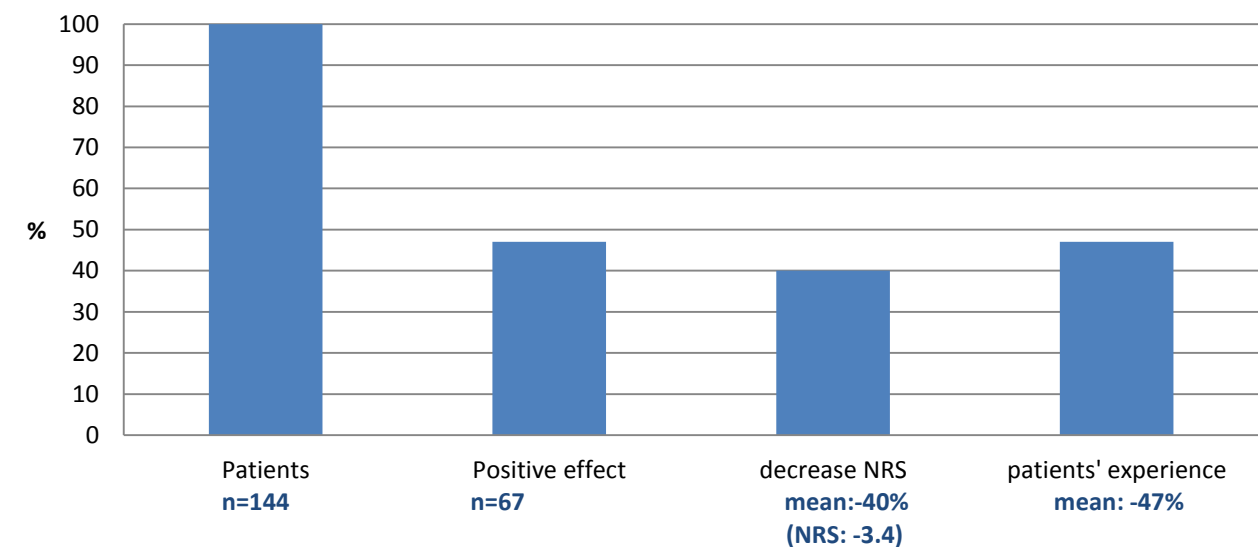
**Results:** 67 patients had a positive effect based on: NRS, patient's percentage of pain relief, PGIC, and satisfaction.

The indications for treatment were:  
 -Neuropathic pain (n=58)  
 -Post herpetic neuralgia (n=29)  
 -Chronic postsurgical pain (n=28)  
 -Diabetic neuropathy (n=19)  
 -Neuropathy related to chemotherapy (n=8)  
 -HIV-associated neuropathy (n=2).

The treatment was effective during mean 10.5 weeks (range 9-14). The mean number of patches used was 1.5 (range 0.1-4).

**Conclusions:** In our hospital, treatment with capsaicin patch is effective for almost half of the patients with neuropathic pain. Patients experienced more pain relief than the NRS scores show.

**Effect of capsaicin 8% patch**



	n	NRS, mean	Percentage patient
PGIC total	33		
Very much improved	4	-3.8	-77%
Much improved	14	-3.1	-53%
Minimally improved	15	-1.9	-31%

Corresponding author: [j.f.m.vandijk@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:j.f.m.vandijk@umcutrecht.nl), UMCU, Postbox 85500, 3508 GA Utrecht, the Netherlands. T:+31 6 24219980.