

# CAPSAICIN 8% PATCH IN TREATMENT OF PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHIC PAIN



## Background and Importance

International Association for the Study of Pain defines neuropathic pain (NP) as pain caused by injury or disease of the somatosensory nervous system, central or peripheral.

Post-traumatic and post-surgical pain, if not well treated in the acute phase, has the potential to progress to chronic NP.

The Neuropathic Pain Special Interest Group (**NeuPSIG**) from the International Association for the Study of Pain has recommended Lidocaine and Capsaicin patches as second-line treatment for localized NP syndromes.

Capsaicin 8% cutaneous patch is indicated for the treatment of peripheral neuropathic pain (PNP) in adults either alone or in combination with other medicinal products for the treatment of pain.



## Aim and Objectives

This study aimed to evaluate the clinical efficacy and tolerability of capsaicin patch in PNP in a usual clinical practice at a tertiary hospital.



## Materials and Methods

Retrospective Observational Study conducted between **January 2019 and December 2022** of patients with PNP who underwent treatment in the hospital. All of them signed informed consent. Data were collected from clinical history and pharmacy program.

### Endpoints included:

Demographic and clinical characteristics (**age, sex, painful skin area**), therapeutic outcomes (**change in basal pain intensity**), **adverse events and site reactions**.

**Therapeutic efficacy** was evaluated through pain intensity, using the Visual Analogue Scale (VAS), at baseline and a week after treatment. Patients were considered as **responders to therapy** if VAS decreases  $\geq 3$ .

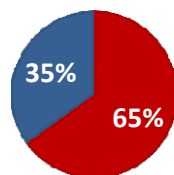


## Results

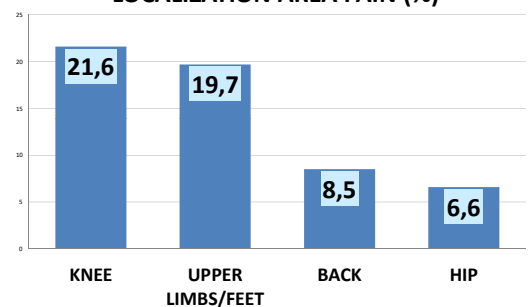
686 patients included  
Average age: **60,5 years**

### GENDER DISTRIBUTION

■ FEMALE ■ MALE



### LOCALIZATION AREA PAIN (%)



VAS baseline score (6,9) decreased a week after treatment (5,7)

42,4% (n=291) of patients improved VAS scale



42% (n=122) of them were considered **responders**

Adverse events (mild/moderate): **erythema (13,1%)**, **burning sensation (29,8%)** and **pruritus (21,4%)**



## Conclusion and Relevance

- ✓ Capsaicin patch use in peripheral neuropathic pain seems to be effective, decreasing pain intensity in treated conditions.
- ✓ Treatment was generally well tolerated: adverse events were transient and self limiting.
- ✓ Additional studies are needed to determine the long-term effectiveness and safety of capsaicin 8% cutaneous patch.

