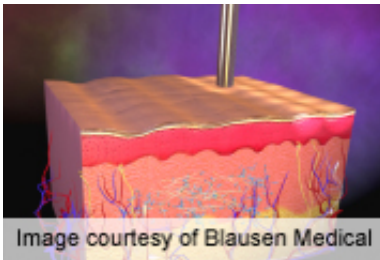


Cold-air anesthesia reduces pain of laser treatment

June 22 2012



In ablative fractionated carbon-dioxide laser treatment for photoaging, cold-air anesthesia used in conjunction with topical anesthesia reduces pain significantly more than topical anesthesia alone, according to research published online June 13 in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

(HealthDay) -- In ablative fractionated carbon-dioxide (CO₂) laser treatment for photoaging, cold-air anesthesia used in conjunction with topical anesthesia reduces pain significantly more than topical anesthesia alone, according to research published online June 13 in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*.

Emily P. Tierney, M.D., of the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, and C. William Hanke, M.D., M.P.H., of St. Vincent Hospital in Carmel, Ind., conducted a prospective split-face study involving 15 patients undergoing ablative fractionated CO₂ [laser treatment](#) for photoaging. Patients and physicians rated the perceived discomfort of the treatment on each side of the face to assess whether forced cold-air

anesthesia could reduce the discomfort of the laser procedure.

The researchers found that the mean patient-reported [pain score](#) was statistically significantly lower with cold-air anesthesia and topical anesthesia, at 4.27 (on a scale from 0 to 10) compared with 7.47 for topical anesthesia alone. The mean physician-reported scores were similar, at 3.73 for cold-air anesthesia and topical anesthesia compared with 7.8 for topical anesthesia alone (P

"The [anesthetic](#) use of forced cold air in conjunction with ablative fractionated CO₂ laser is a practical, well-tolerated modality that allows performance of the procedure with minimal discomfort in the absence of sedation, anesthesia, and narcotic analgesia," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
[Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

Copyright © 2012 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Cold-air anesthesia reduces pain of laser treatment (2012, June 22) retrieved 6 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2012-06-cold-air-anesthesia-pain-laser-treatment.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
