

A massage is proven to relieve psychophysiological state of patients with chronic headache

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Spanish researchers at the University of Granada -in collaboration with the Clinical Hospital San Cecilio and the University Rey Juan Carlos- have proven that the psychological and physiological state of patients with tension headache improves within 24 hours after receiving a 30-minute massage.

As researchers explained, tension headaches have an increasing incidence in the population. This type of disorder is usually treated with analgesics, that relieve symptoms temporarily. One of the main causes of this type of headache is the presence of trigger points. Recently, new strategies for controlling this disabling pain are being studied.

The researcher **Cristina Toro Velasco**, leader of the study, under Professor **Manuel Arroyo Morales** supervision- has proven that a 30-minute massage on cervical trigger points improves [autonomic nervous system](#) regulation in these patients. Additionally, patients exhibit a better [psychological state](#) and "reduce the stress and anxiety associated to such a disturbing disorder".

Similarly, patients report a perceived relief from symptoms within 24 hours after the [massage](#). This might mean that massages may reduce the pain caused by trigger points, which would involve an improvement in the general state of patients.

More information: The results of this study were published in American Journal of Manipulative Physiological and Therapeutics.

Provided by University of Granada

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