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Journal Name:	International Journal of Medical and Pharmaceutical Case Reports
Manuscript Number:	Ms_IJMPCR_36315
Title of the Manuscript:	Ultrasound-assisted pulsed radiofrequency targeting the dorsal root ganglion for intractable postherpetic neuralgia with lumbar radicular pain
Type of the Article	Case study

General guideline for Peer Review process:

This journal's peer review policy states that **NO** manuscript should be rejected only on the basis of '**lack of Novelty**', provided the manuscript is scientifically robust and technically sound.

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	<p>The case study is interesting and good written. I think the authors have to expand the information about th RF methods and its practicibility in different condition (for example Park HG, Park PG, Kim WJ, et al. Ultrasound-Assisted Mental Nerve Block and Pulsed Radiofrequency Treatment for Intractable Postherpetic Neuralgia: Three Case Studies. <i>The Korean Journal of Pain</i>. 2014;27(1):81-85. doi:10.3344/kjp.2014.27.1.81.</p> <p>Kim ED, Lee YI, Park HJ (2017) Comparison of efficacy of continuous epidural block and pulsed radiofrequency to the dorsal root ganglion for management of pain persisting beyond the acute phase of herpes zoster. <i>PLoS ONE</i> 12(8): e0183559. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0183559</p> <p>Kim K, Jo D, Kim E. Pulsed Radiofrequency to the Dorsal Root Ganglion in Acute Herpes Zoster and Postherpetic Neuralgia. <i>Pain Physician</i> 2017;20:E411–E418. pmid:28339440).</p>	<p>Recently, the use of pulsed RF to the DRG has increased in many chronic pain conditions, including, herniated disks, spinal stenosis, herpes zoster, and adhesive capsulitis [7,8,13-15]. A few studies reported that pulsed RF to the DRG of the cervical and thoracic levels with fluoroscopic guidance in patients with zoster is a useful treatment [13,14]. Park et al. reported that pulsed RF to the mental nerve for intractable postherpetic neuralgia is a useful treatment [16]. In our cases, precisely performed ultrasound-assisted pulsed RF to the DRG of the L2 levels in patients with postherpetic neuralgia resulted in excellent outcomes with no adverse effects. However, procedure with fluoroscopic guidance is difficult to perform in patients who are reluctant to or need to avoid exposure to radiation, such as pregnancy. The ultrasound technique can reduce or avoid radiation exposure. Therefore, ultrasound-assisted pulsed RF to the lumbar DRG would be beneficial to find an intervention method that can be easily and safely applied in clinical practice.</p>



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Minor REVISION comments	The patients have not been treated with all possibility medications and may be the authors maybe discuss where is the place of the RF according the stage and duration of the neuropathic pain.	Treatment for PHN is controversial. Postherpetic Neuralgia usually responds to pharmacotherapy, which should be employed before any intervention is attempted. However, unfortunately, some patients with PHN suffer from severe and refractory pain, with no relief despite various medical treatments. Moreover, oral anti-neuropathic drugs have their own limitations, including side effects at high doses as well as efficacy issues. In the present case, the patient refused an increase in drugs dosage because of side effects such as dizziness and drowsiness. Although oral medications are effective in the management of PHN in some patients, pain related to PHN is one of the most refractory forms of pain. Thus, if conservative management fails, alternative analgesic techniques should be considered [1]. Minimally invasive procedures such as a nerve block are a reasonable next step if pharmacological modalities fail to control the pain. In the present case, following ESI and transforaminal epidural block, the patient experienced temporary pain relief lasting approximately a week. We, therefore, decided to administer pulsed RF targeting the L2 DRG for long-lasting therapeutic effect.
Optional/General comments		