Topical capsaicin cream was effective for chronic idiopathic intractable pruritus ani


Clinical impact ratings GP/FP/Primary care ★★★★★☆

Q In patients with chronic idiopathic intractable pruritus ani, what is the effectiveness of topical capsaicin?

MAIN RESULTS
Clinical response to capsaicin was better than to placebo (McNemar test p<0.0001). 31 of 44 patients had a clinical response during capsaicin treatment and did not respond to placebo; all patients not responding to capsaicin also did not respond to placebo. Capsaicin treatment was associated with lower itching scores than placebo but led to higher burning sensation scores and a longer duration of burning after application (table). 3 patients in the capsaicin group dropped out of the study because of moderate to severe perianal burning.

CONCLUSIONS
Capsaicin cream was effective for chronic idiopathic intractable pruritus ani but was associated with an increased, but generally short duration, burning sensation after application. For most patients, the increased burning after application was not severe enough to cause withdrawal from the study.

For correspondence: Dr E Goldin, Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel. goldin@cc.huji.ac.il

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