

A STUDY TO COMPARE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ULTRASOUND THERAPY WITH CRYOKINETICS AND SOFT TISSUE MASSAGE VERSUS ULTRASOUND THERAPY WITH SOFT TISSUE MASSAGE IN ACUTE SUPRASPINATUS TENDINITIS.

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INTRODUCTION

Supraspinatus tendinitis or painful arc syndrome occurs in the shoulder. The shoulder joint owes its stability to the rotator cuff muscles which are four small muscles located around the shoulder joint which help movement, but importantly their tendons stabilize the head of the humerus within the joint capsule^[1]. One of the most common overuse injuries that occur in the upper limb is supraspinatus tendinitis. Supraspinatus tendinitis is caused by repeated stress or over use injury^[2]. Tendinitis and partial tears in the supraspinatus tendon cause a “painful arc” since as the person elevates his arm sideways, the tendon begins to impinge under the acromion through the middle part of the arc and this is usually relieved as the arm reaches 180^[3].

Tendinopathy is a common painful condition with reduced functional capacity of the tendon associated with the histopathological findings showing failed healing response^[4]. Overuse or repetitive micro-trauma sustained in overhead position and repetitive motion at work place causes degenerative changes and contributes to supraspinatus tendinitis^[5]. Manual treatment consisted of deep friction massage on the supraspinatus muscle, scapular mobilization, glenohumeral joint mobilization, and proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation techniques^[6].

Supraspinatus muscle runs along the top of the shoulder blade and inserts via the tendon at the top of the arm (humerus bone). This muscle is used to lift the arm up sideways and also important in throwing sports as it is the muscle that holds the arm in the shoulder when you release what you are throwing^[7]. The supraspinatus tendinitis is caused^[7] by both extrinsic and intrinsic factors. The extrinsic causes are primary impingement, increased subacromial

loading, trauma, rotatorcuff overload, eccentric muscle overload, glenohumeral laxity, glenoid labral tear, muscle imbalance to poor posture, trapeziusparalysis. The intrinsic causes are acromial morphology, acromioclavicular arthrosis, coracoid impingement syndrome, prominent humeral greater tuberosity, ageing, impingement, primary tendinopathy, calcified tendinopathy ^[8]. The calcifications of the shoulder resolved after ultrasound therapy, thus confirming the findings in earlier reports ^[9].

AIM OF THE STUDY:

The aim of the study is to compare the effectiveness of ultrasound therapy with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage versus ultrasound therapy with soft tissue massage in acute supraspinatus tendinitis.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the study

- To find out the effect of ultrasound therapy along with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage in acute supraspinatus tendinitis
- To find out the effect of ultrasound therapy along with soft tissue massage in acute supraspinatus tendinitis
- To compare the effectiveness of ultrasound therapy along with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage over therapeutic ultrasound with soft tissue massage in reducing pain and improving shoulder function in patients with acute supraspinatus tendinitis.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY:

An experimental study design was conducted with 40 patients within the age group of 30 to 60 years who fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

1. AGE : 30-60
2. GENDER : Both male and female
3. Empty Can test positive
4. Clinically diagnosed as acute supraspinatus tendinitis.
5. Point tenderness at Greater tuberosity of humerus

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

1. Deep open wounds in shoulder
2. Peripheral vascular diseases
3. Shoulder fractures
4. Cardiac pacemakers
5. Shoulder dislocation

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Visual analog scale (VAS)

A Visual Analog Scale (VAS) is a measurement instrument that tries to measure a characteristic or attitude that is believed to range across a continuum of values and cannot easily be directly measured. It is often used in epidemiologic and clinical research to measure the intensity or frequency of various symptoms.

2. Shoulder pain and disability index (SPADI)

The Shoulder Pain and Disability Index (SPADI) is a self-administered questionnaire that consists of two dimensions, one for pain and the other for functional activities. The dimension consists of five questions regarding the severity of an individual's pain. Functional activities are assessed with eight questions designed to measure the degree of difficulty an individual has with various activities of daily living that require upper extremity use.

PROCEDURE:

Samples were selected based on the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Written informed consent form was obtained from the subjects. The study consists of 40 both male and female with acute supraspinatus tendinitis with the age group between 30-60 years will be assigned into 2 groups. After explaining the subjects about the treatment pre-assessment will be taken prior to the commencement of treatment with self-report outcome measure of VAS and shoulder pain and disability index. The total population group of (n= 40) is divided into 2 groups. Ultrasound therapy, cryokinetics soft tissue massage (n= 20), ultrasound therapy, soft tissue massage (n=20).

GROUP- A : 20 SUBJECTS-(ultrasound therapy, cryokinetics, soft tissue massage)

GROUP- B : 20 SUBJECTS-(ultrasound therapy, soft tissue massage)

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive Statistics:

- Mean & Standard deviation for Continuous variables like Age, SPADI and VAS
- Frequency distribution for categorical variables like Gender

Inferential Statistics:

- Intra Group Analysis – Paired Sample t-test
- Inter Group Analysis – Independent Sample t-test

Paired Samples t-test

Hypotheses:

Null Hypothesis, $H_0: \mu_d = 0$ (i.e., there is no significant effect of Treatment A (or B) in terms of measures such as SPADI and VAS)

Alternate Hypothesis, $H_1:$

$\mu_d > 0$ (i.e., there is significant effect of Treatment A (or B) in terms of measures such as SPADI and VAS)

In this case, $\mu_d =$ mean difference between Pre and Post-test scores;
 $d =$ difference $\square d =$ Post Test Score - Pre Test Score

Level of significance, $\alpha = 0.05$

Test to be applied: Paired Sample t-test

Independents Samples t-test

Hypotheses:

Null hypothesis, $H_0: \mu_1 = \mu_2$ (That is, there is no significant difference between two treatments (A & B) in terms of changes in measures such as SPADI and VAS)

Alternative hypothesis, $H_1: \mu_1 \neq \mu_2$ (That is, there is significant difference between two treatments (A & B) in terms of changes in measures such as SPADI and VAS)

Level of significance: $\alpha = 5\%$ or 0.05

Test to be applied: Independent Samples t-test

Inferential Statistics:

Intra-Group Analysis (Within Group Analysis) – Treatment A

Testing the effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

$H_0:$ There is no significant effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

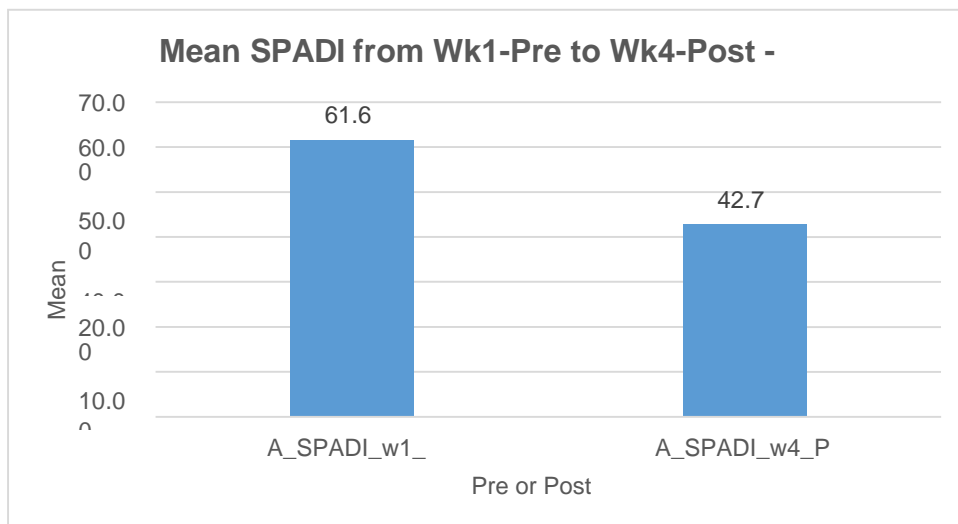
$H_1:$ There is significant effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

The above hypothesis is tested by the use of **Paired Sample t-test** and the corresponding output is shown below: Output of Paired t-test:

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

A SPADI w1 Pre *A SPADI w4 Post*

Mean	61.60	42.75
SD	18.22	13.78
Variance	331.83	189.99
Observations	20.00	20.00
Pearson Correlation	0.96	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0.00	
Df	19.00	
t Stat	13.24	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.000	
t Critical one-tail	1.73	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.000	
t Critical two-tail	2.09	



Result:

Test Statistic: $t = 13.24$ **P-value** = $0.000 < 0.05$

Conclusion: Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is **less than 0.05**, we **reject** the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = 13.24$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean SPADI is **decreased** from Week1-Pre-test (61.60) to Week4-Post-test (42.75) in Group A. Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is significant effect of **Treatment A in decreasing the value of SPADI** from Week 1 to Week 4.

Testing the effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

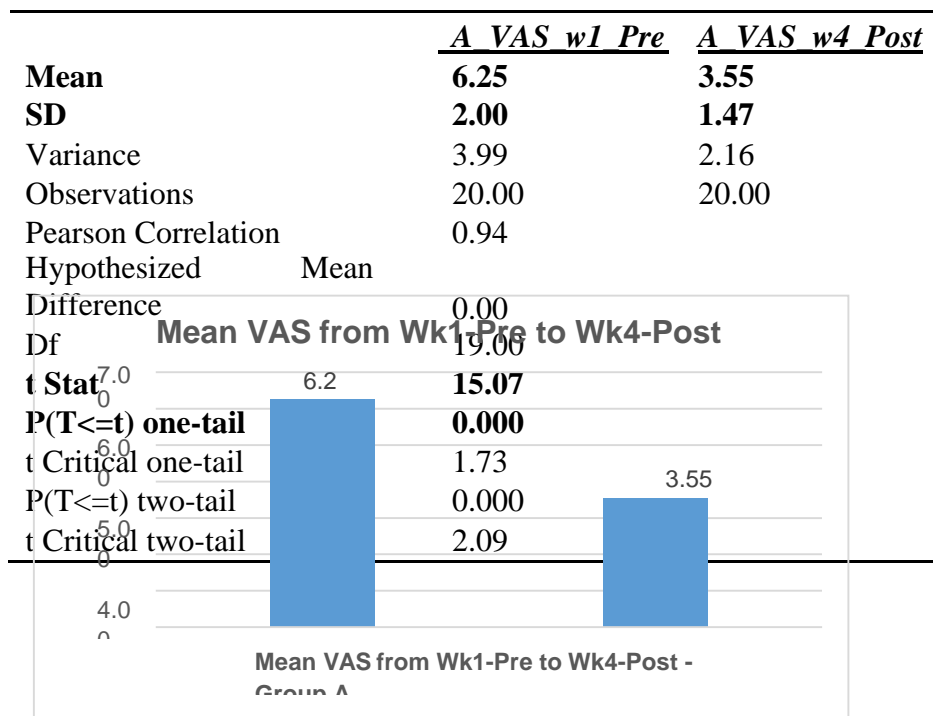
H0: There is no significant effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

H1: There is significant effect of Treatment A in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

The above hypothesis is tested by the use of **Paired Sample t-test** and the corresponding output is shown below:

Output of Paired t-test:

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means



Result:

Test Statistic: $t = 15.07$, **P-value** = 0.000 < 0.05

Conclusion: Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is **less than 0.05**, we **reject** the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = 15.07$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean VAS is

decreased from Week1-Pre-test (6.25) to Week4-Post-test (3.55) in Group A. Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is significant effect of **Treatment A** in decreasing the value of **VAS** from Week 1 to Week4.

Intra-Group Analysis (Within Group Analysis) – Treatment B

Testing the effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

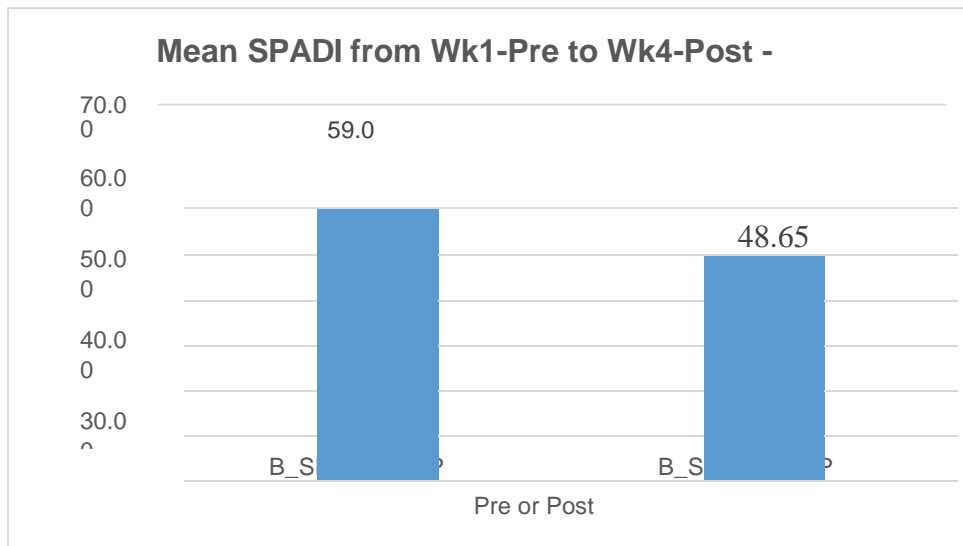
H0: There is no significant effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

H1: There is significant effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

The above hypothesis is tested by the use of **Paired Sample t-test** and the corresponding output is shown below: **Output of Paired t-test:**

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

	<i>B SPADI w1 Pre</i>	<i>B SPADI w4 Post</i>
Mean	59.00	48.65
SD	18.30	16.35
Variance	334.74	267.19
Observations	20.00	20.00
Pearson Correlation	0.95	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0.00	
Df	19.00	
t Stat	7.90	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.000	
t Critical one-tail	1.73	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.000	
t Critical two-tail	2.09	



Result:

Test Statistic: $t = 7.90$,**P-value** = $0.000 < 0.05$

Conclusion: Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is **less than 0.05**, we **reject** the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = 7.90$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean SPADI is **decreased** from Week1-Pre-test (59.00) to Week4-Post-test (48.65) in Group B. Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is significant effect of treatment B in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 to Week 4.

Testing the effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

H0: There is no significant effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

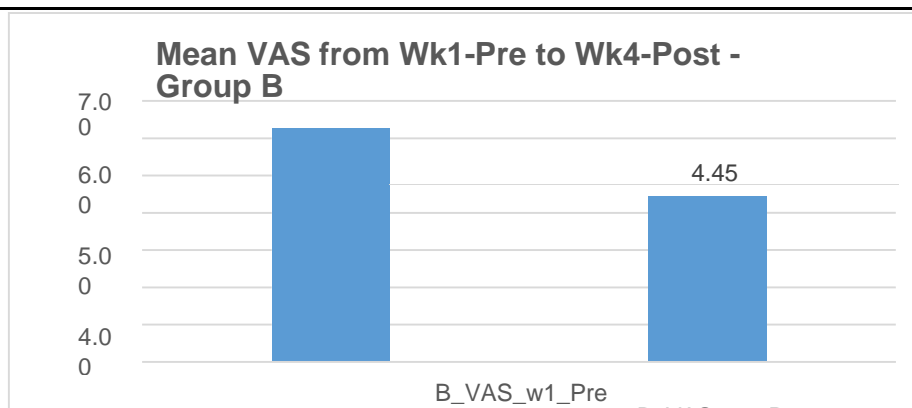
H1: There is significant effect of Treatment B in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

The above hypothesis is tested by the use of **Paired Sample t-test** and the corresponding output is shown below:

Output of Paired t-test:

t-Test: Paired Two Sample for Means

	<u><i>B VAS w1 Pre</i></u>	<u><i>B VAS w4 Post</i></u>
Mean	6.25	4.45
SD	1.83	1.57
Variance	3.36	2.47
Observations	20.00	20.00
Pearson Correlation	0.95	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0.00	
Df	19.00	
t Stat	13.08	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.000	
t Critical one-tail	1.73	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.000	
t Critical two-tail	2.09	



Mean

Result:

Test Statistic: $t = 13.08, P\text{-value} = 0.000 < 0.05$

Conclusion: Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is **less than 0.05**, we **reject** the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = 13.08, p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean VAS is **decreased** from Week1-Pre-test (6.25) to Week4-Post-test (4.45) in Group B. Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that there is significant effect of **Treatment B in decreasing the value of VAS** from Week 1 to Week 4.

Inter-Group Analysis (Between Group Analysis)

Comparing the effect of Treatments A and B in terms of changes in SPADI from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

H0: There is no significant difference between Treatments A and B in terms of average change in SPADI

H1: There is significant difference between Treatments A and B in terms of average change in SPADI

The above hypothesis is tested by the use of Independent Samples t-test.

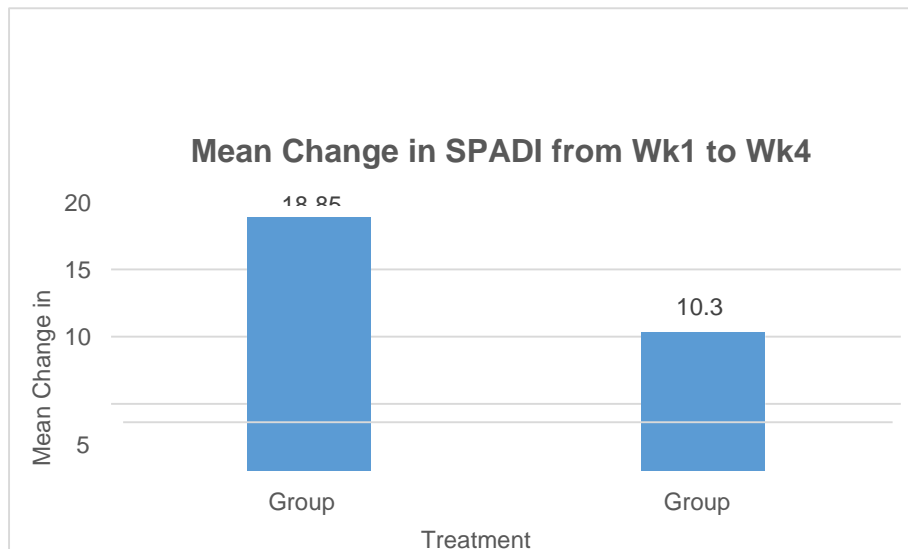
Test to be applied: Independent Sample t-test

Output of Independent Samples t-test:

t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Equal Variances

	<u>A SPADI w14 Diff</u>	<u>B SPADI w14 Diff</u>
Mean	-18.85	-10.35
SD	6.37	5.86
Variance	40.56	34.34
Observations	20.00	20.00
Pooled Variance	37.45	
Hypothesized Mean Difference	0.00	

Df	38.00
t Stat	-4.39
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.000
t Critical one-tail	1.69
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.000
t Critical two-tail	2.02



Result: Test Statistic: $t = 4.39$, **P-value** = $0.000 < 0.05$

Conclusion: Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is less than 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = -4.39$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean reduction in the value of SPADI from Week 1 (pre) to Week 4 (post) by Treatment A (18.85) is more than that of Treatment B (10.35). Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that the Treatment A is effective than Treatment B in decreasing the value of SPADI from Week 1 (pre) to Week 4 (post).

Comparing the effect of Treatments A and B in terms of changes in VAS from Week 1 (Pre) to Week 4 (Post)

H₀: There is no significant difference between Treatments A and B in terms of average change in VAS

H₁: There is significant difference between Treatments A and B in terms of average change in VAS

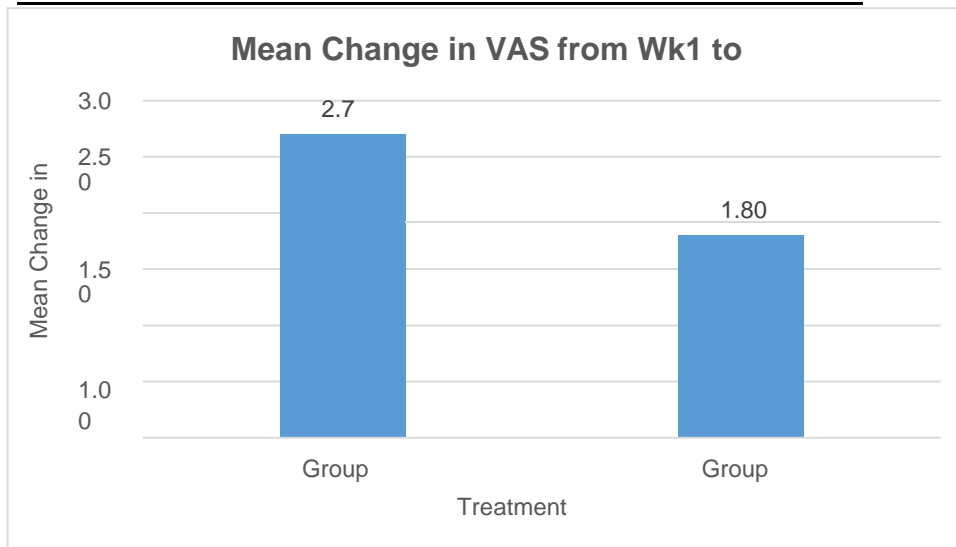
The above hypothesis is tested by the use of Independent Samples t-test.

Test to be applied: Independent Sample t-test

Output of Independent Samples t-test:

t-Test: Two-Sample Assuming Equal Variances

	<u>A VAS w14 Di</u>	<u>B VAS w14 Di</u>
Mean	-2.70	-1.80
SD	0.80	0.62
Variance	0.64	0.38
Observations	20.00	20.00
Pooled Variance	0.51	
Hypothesized	Mean	
Difference	0.00	
Df	38.00	
t Stat	-3.98	
P(T<=t) one-tail	0.000	
t Critical one-tail	1.69	
P(T<=t) two-tail	0.000	
t Critical two-tail	2.02	



Result:

Test Statistic: $t = -3.98$, **P-value** = $0.000 < 0.05$

Since the p-value (0.000) of the test statistic is less than 0.05, we reject the null hypothesis at 5% level of significance ($t = -3.98$, $p < 0.05$). In addition, the mean reduction in the value of VAS from Week 1 (pre) to Week 4 (post) by Treatment A (2.70) is more than that of Treatment B (1.80). Hence, the evidence is sufficient to conclude that the Treatment A is effective than Treatment B in decreasing the value of VAS from Week 1 (pre) to Week 4 (post).

DISCUSSION: In Group-A, the treatment was more effective for the 37 year old male who is an IT professional who responds the treatment and then improved in reducing disability and pain by taking the treatment for 4 weeks and 3 session per week by ultrasound therapy with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage (SPADI and VAS). In Group-A, the treatment was not much effective for the age of 65 who

is an housewife who doesn't reduces their disability and pain by taking SPADI and VASscale. In Group-B, the treatment was less effective for the age 33 year old female patient, working as an dance teacher taking the treatment ultrasound therapy and soft tissue massage reduces their pain and disability (SPADI and VAS). In Group-B, the treatment was not much effective for the age 53 male patient, working as an traffic police taking the treatment ultrasound therapy and soft tissue massage doesn't reduces their pain and disability (SPADI and VAS).

In this study ultrasound therapy, cryokinetics and soft tissue massages showed beneficial results in the results in the treatment of acute supraspinatus tendinitis so Group A has shown improvement than Group B which is proved statistically. Between the patients interviewed, both males and females in both groups are almost equally affected with acute supraspinatus tendinitis with 50% of males and females in Group A and 50% of males and females in Group B. In relation to age this study showing that the patients incidence with acute supraspinatus tendinitis is more in the age group of 30-60 years. Gimblett PA et al (1999) stated that deep friction massage is an effective means of treating with soft tissue lesions. Brosseau et al (2002) stated that soft tissue massage is not effective for controlling pain in tendinitis because that showed significant improvement in VAS score. Hijioka et al stated that 60% of the shoulders showed degeneration at the subacromial surface likely due to friction with the under force of acromion. Zeisig et al and Connell et al reported that despite the presence of decreased structural defects on ultrasound the impingement was not reliably correlated with clinical gains.

RESULT: It is concluded that the Treatment of Group A patients who are treated with ultrasound therapy with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage is more effective than treatment of Group B patients who are treated with ultrasound therapy with soft tissue massage in acute supraspinatus tendinitis.

CONCLUSION: Hence therapeutic ultrasound with cryokinetics and soft tissue massage (GROUP A) showed significant improvement than therapeutic ultrasound with soft tissue massage (GROUP B) in reducing pain and enhancing functional performance in patient with acute supraspinatus tendinitis.

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