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# Ultrasound-Guided Hyperosmolar Dextrose Prolotherapy for Chronic Achilles Tendinopathy

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## **Purpose**

To determine the clinical effectiveness of ultrasound-guided hyperosmolar dextrose injections (prolotherapy) for chronic Achilles tendinopathy.

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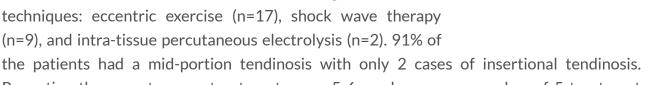
### Methods and materials

This observational prospective study (case series) included patients from our institution (2014-2018) experiencing Achilles tendinopathy pain with unsatisfactory results after a three-month initial conservative treatment (conventional physical therapy and shockwave therapy). Exclusion criteria: insertional calcific tendinosis (irreversible tendinosis), infection-related tendinopathy, large intra-substance or tendon insertion ruptures. All patients were informed about the study and signed the standard consent form of our institution. The diagnostic and interventional ultrasound procedures were performed by three experienced radiologists with a professional background of 9–20 years in musculoskeletal radiology. The...

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### Results

A total of 22 patients with Achilles tendinopathy were treated (M/F: 13/9, age: 25-70 years) after unsuccessful conventional treatment from one or more of the following rehabilitation techniques: eccentric exercise (n=17), shock wave therapy (n=9), and intra-tissue percutaneous electrolysis (n=2). 91% of



Repeating the percutaneous treatment every 5-6 weeks, a mean number of 5 treatment sessions (1–11) was required to achieve satisfactory results (VAS

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**Fig. 1:** Material used for the percutaneous interventional ultrasound procedure.



Fig. 2: Achilles tendon ultrasound locating the hypoechoic tendinous foci to be treated.



**Fig. 3:** Achilles tendon ultrasound-guided hydrodissection of the paratenon with 2%...



Fig. 4: Achilles tendon ultrasound-guided prolotherapy (hyperosmolar dextrose solution...

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### Conclusion

This study aimed to add evidence to the little data available on tendinosis and its possible treatment. Our work supports data obtained by Maxwell et al and Ryan et al (2, 3), which presents the largest series on the treatment and follow up of Achilles tendinosis published to date and provide an excellent reference to compare our results. Our ultrasound-guided, percutaneous treatment method describes for the first time paratenon hydrodissection with 2% lidocaine, fulfilling a dual purpose. On the one hand, the tendon is anaesthetised...

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### Personal information and conflict of interest

Y. El Khatib Ghzal; Santa Cruz de Tenerife/ES - nothing to disclose A. Bello Báez; Santa Cruz de Tenerife/ES - nothing to disclose L. Nieto Morales; Santa Cruz de Tenerife/ES - nothing to disclose A. Cavada Laza; SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE/ES - nothing to disclose Read more

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