



Efficacy And Safety of Ultrasound-Guided Sphenopalatine ganglion block versus greater occipital nerve block in Chronic Resistant Migraine on a sample of Egyptian patients

Nourhan Abdelmohsen Taha (1), Mai Fathy (1), Ahmed Elsadek (1), Tamer Hussein Emara (1), Sherien Mohamed Farag (1), Ramez Reda Moustafa (1), Mohamad Osama Abdulghani (1)(1)
Department of Neurology, Ain Shams University, Cairo, Egypt

Objectives:

Migraine is a common primary headache disorder with different treatment modalities emerging as ultrasound guided peripheral nerve blocks especially for a challenging subgroup of patients; chronic resistant migraine. We compared the efficacy and safety of ultrasound guided bilateral sphenopalatine ganglion (SPG) block versus bilateral greater occipital nerve (GON) block, in chronic resistant migraine patients.

Methods:

This study was an interventional randomized controlled trial, including 44 patients, 22 in sphenopalatine ganglion arm , 22 in greater occipital nerve arm.

All patients were assessed initially by headache diary (frequency, intensity on visual analogue scale and duration) (for 3 months), HIT-6 and MIDAS scales.

The patients (blindly allocated) underwent nerve block ultrasound guided, then followed up after one month by headache diary and HIT- 6 scale and three months by MIDAS. Results were analysed on SPSS, using mixed ANOVA and Tukey's Post-Hoc analysis.

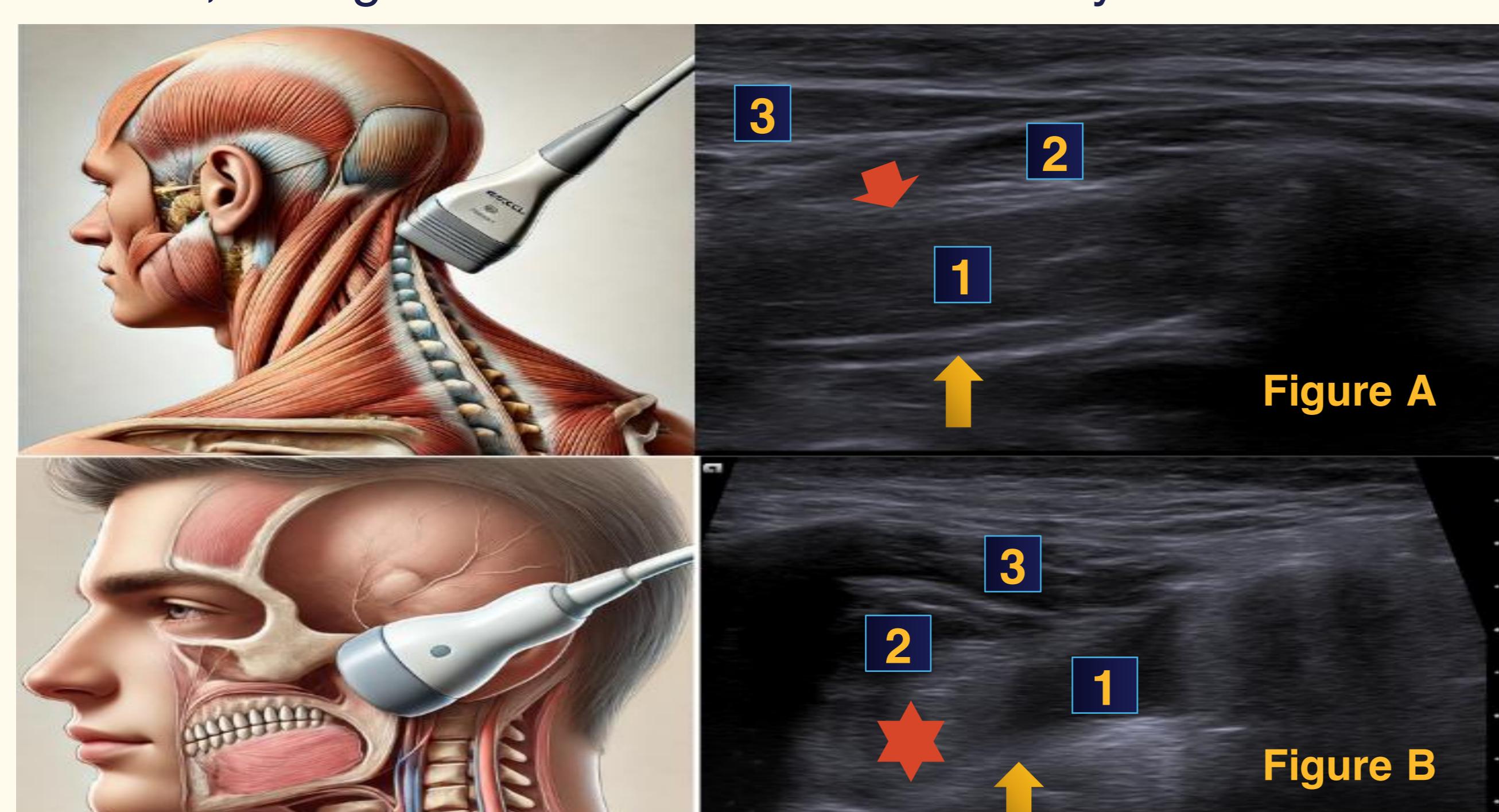


Figure (A): Anatomy of the greater occipital nerve as illustrated by ultrasound transverse plane at level of C2 (live image).
1: Obliquus capitis muscle, 2: semispinalis capitis muscle, 3: splenius capitis muscle, pink arrow: the lamina of C2, red arrow: the fascia containing the GON and artery (target point)

Figure (B): Anatomy of the sphenopalatine fossa as seen by ultrasound transverse plane infra-zygomatic approach (live image).
(A): The Coronoid process, (B): The Condylar process, (1): lateral pterygoid muscle, (2): masseter muscle, (3) temporalis muscle, (arrow): lateral pterygoid plate, (star): is the target point (SPG)

Results:

The two groups were matched as regards the gender, age, type of migraine, frequency and years lived with headache.

The study revealed that GON and SPG block, were equally effective ($p < 0.05$) as regards reducing the headache diary parameters, as well as the functional impact on HIT-6 and MIDAS scale. SPG block was more effective in patients with autonomic manifestations ($p=0.02$).

	Group		One Way ANOVA	
	SPG group (N= 22)	GON group (N= 22)		
	Mean \pm SD	Mean \pm SD		
Number of Headache days	Initial	28.18 \pm 0.72	28.43 \pm 0.74	0.89
	Follow up	13.68 \pm 1.79	15.71 \pm 1.84	<0.001
Pairwise comparison	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	
Duration in hours	Initial	28.09 \pm 2.23	22.43 \pm 2.28	0.204
	Follow up	12.86 \pm 2.57	10.92 \pm 2.63	0.02
Pairwise comparison	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	
Intensity	Initial	9.09 \pm 0.2	8.9 \pm 0.2	0.67
	Follow up	5.14 \pm 0.36	5.33 \pm 0.37	<0.001
Pairwise comparison	p-value	<0.001	<0.001	

Conclusions:

Ultrasound guided SPG is as effective as GON as a treatment modality for chronic resistant migraine and may be more useful in the presence of autonomic manifestations.