



AUVA promotes the development of the shock wave technology

Since December 1998, more than 1400 patients with pseudoarthrosis (non-unions) were treated with shock wave therapy at the Trauma Center Meidling, which is run by Allgemeine Unfallversicherungsanstalt (AUVA). Nearly 80% of the patients, which came from more than 90 hospitals and clinics from all over Austria and its neighboring countries as well in some cases even from overseas, were completely cured by this non-invasive, practically side-effect free method.

Shock wave therapy reduces not only suffering but also costs (by about 80 %)

Applying shock wave therapy saved the patients not only from elaborate surgery (extensive dissection of the non-union, removing scar tissue through milling and chiseling as well as bone transplants, mostly from the pelvic bone), but also from long hospital stays and possible following complications. While after surgery 10 to 30% of the cases develop more or less serious complications, with shock wave treatment only minor side-effects, if any, were observed (superficial swellings and hematomas with no clinical impact).

Applying shock wave therapy in treating non-unions reduces the costs for the health care system by about 80 %. By fastidiously collecting and evaluating treatment data, AUVA has contributed significantly to the optimization of shock wave therapy.

Pioneering AUVA – “positive” side-effects lead to new fields of application

By documenting “positive” side-effects like faster wound healing after shock wave treatment, AUVA played a major role in expanding shock wave treatment to completely new fields, i. e. treatment of skin traumas and of the myocardial muscle, which will be presented at the 8th International Congress of the ISMST (International Society for Musculoskeletal Shockwave Therapy) in Vienna, sponsored by AUVA.

After successful applications of shock waves at the Trauma Center Meidling, AUVA has opened a second center for shock wave therapy in Salzburg more than a year ago.

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