A COMPARISON OF THE MEDWAVE SOFTSHOCK ACOUSTIC WAVE AND VARIOUS SOFT**** OR STEM…. ACOUSTIC WAVE DEVICES

This article is a clinical impression from being treated by one of the new soft* acoustic wave devices. Granted, this was a one-time treatment only, but done to get an actual feel of the machine and how it operates.**

All acoustic wave or shock wave devices produce an acoustic wave by one of several means. Some use electromagnetic, some compressed air, and a few electrohydraulic. The electromagnetic devices are the lease prone to breakdown and produce the wave by a "bullet" hitting a striker plate. Electropneumatic functions the same way but uses air for the driving force. A couple of the new units use electrohydraulic. An electric discharge is made in water and the acoustic wave is manufactured in that way. If all three devices were set at the same setting, one would be pressed to tell any difference In the treatments.

A patient went in with a wrenched knee that was obtained by getting out of a restaurant booth awkwardly. There was no pain, no meniscus damage, or anything else. It was a strain – sprain type injury. Walking was a bit guarded but no pain.

The patient went to a massage therapist who was doing a promotion for the Soft…. machine. There was no exam, orthopedic tests, or any testing. She felt confident that it was a strain-sprain based on what the symptoms that were presented and information given.

The device she used produced a very low acoustic wave that was barely to felt in the soft tissue. She raised the power level to near maximum and again, there was no pain reported at all in the soft tissue. However, when going over the patella and the lateral epicondyle of the tibia the patient said it was felt quite sharply. The therapist said that the pain reflected an area of injury. The pain was from the wave of the device vibrating the superficial bone. Every location where bone was close to the surface, pain was felt. Again, this just reflects vibratory sensation to the bone. Power was reduced to what she called a more normal level

and very little was felt in either soft tissue or bone. All acoustic wave devices will produce pain over bone if power levels are set too high or Hz or impacts too quickly.

When treatment was concluded, there were approximately 600 impacts of the acoustic wave. The 600 impacts basically covered the entire knee. The cost for continuing treatment was $198 per treatment or $1,584 for a six-visit protocol.

The Accuflex Medwave Softshock was set up, and the exact treatment parameters were loaded into the *Medwave's Softshock touchscreen.*

At these settings, no difference could be felt between the Soft** devices and the Medwave Softshock. The Medwave Softshock was used over superficial bone with no adverse sensations with these protocols. A coupling gel was needed for both devices, so ultrasound gel was used.**

An acoustic wave is an acoustic wave, it is just the method of delivery that varies. The Medwave Softshock reduces pain, helps eliminate inflammation, and increases ranges of motion. It should be noted that the Medwave Softshock can actually deliver higher power levels and faster impulses per second if desired. However, if you want stem cell activation, and a comparison with the expensive Stem…. devices, the *Medwave Softshock appears to duplicate the exact same settings and responses but at a price of one tenth the cost.*

During the Medwave Softshock AW therapy, an acoustic wave interacts with the tissues of the body. This leads to a cascade of beneficial effects including neovascularization in growth, reversal of chronic inflammation, stimulation of collagen and dissolution of calcium buildup. Simulation of these biological mechanisms creates an optimal healing environment.