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Combining A Comprehensive Physical Therapy Program And Electrocorpeal Shockwave Therapy For Plantar Fasciitis: A Case Report

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1 **Title Page**

2 **Combining a Comprehensive Physical Therapy Program and Electrocorpeal Shockwave**
3 **Therapy for Plantar Fasciitis: A Case Report**

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8

9 The patient signed an informed consent acknowledging the participation in this case report and
10 allowing the use of their personal health information and recorded images. The patient received
11 information on the university's policies regarding the Health Insurance Portability and
12 Accountability Act.

13

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18 Key Words: plantar fasciitis, hip strengthening, electroshock therapy, conservative treatment.

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25 **ABSTRACT**

26 **Background and Purpose:** Plantar fasciitis (PF) is present in 2 million Americans a year, and in
27 10% of the population over a lifetime. Conventional physical therapy (PT) for PF has included
28 strengthening of foot and hip musculature, and lower extremity stretching. Extracorporeal
29 shockwave therapy (ECSW) has also been utilized with success in treatment of PF. While these
30 two treatments have been used individually, their combined effect has not been studied. The
31 purpose of this case report investigated a combined plan of care utilizing conventional PT,
32 targeted hip strengthening, and ECSW.

33 **Case Description:** The patient was a 48-year-old female who presented with chronic PF. She
34 was seen for 11 visits over 4 weeks. Initial deficits were found in strength, gait, tenderness to
35 palpation, impaired ADLs, and functional tasks. She reported prior treatment of ECSW and PT,
36 but no combination of both simultaneously. Treatment included traditional PT with a focus on
37 intrinsic foot strengthening, hip strengthening, and taping.

38 **Outcomes:** From initial evaluation to re-evaluation, Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS)
39 improved from 31/80 to 53/80, pain decreased from 4/10 to 0/10, tenderness decreased from
40 diffuse pain to point tenderness at the plantar fascia insertion. Manual muscle testing improved
41 as follows: right gastrocnemius 4/5 to 4+/5, extensor hallucis left 4+/5 to 5/5 and right 3+/5 to
42 4/5, flexor hallucis left 4+/5 to 5/5 and right 3+/5 to 4/5. Her gait no longer demonstrated a
43 Trendelenburg pattern.

44 **Discussion:** Traditional PT with a focus on hip strengthening combined with ECSW therapy was
45 beneficial in treating a patient with PF. Future studies may want to consider investigating the
46 most efficient hip and ECSW therapy protocols for maximum benefits.

47 Manuscript Word Count: 3,426

48 **Introduction/Background and Purpose**

49 Plantar fasciitis (PF) is defined as inflammation to the thick, fibrous connective tissue
50 originating on the medial calcaneal tubercle extending to the metatarsal heads of the foot and
51 passing over the superficial musculature of the foot.¹ This structure helps to stabilize the medial
52 longitudinal arch (MLA) and it restores the arch during dynamic movements, aiding in
53 reconfiguring the foot for efficient toe-off.² PF is present in about two million Americans a year
54 and 10% of the population over a lifetime.³ Rome et al also reported PF is present in both athletic
55 and non-athletic populations and accounts for 15% of all adult foot complaints requiring
56 professional care.⁴

57 Common symptoms of PF include pain, especially in the mornings or during
58 weightbearing, tenderness to palpation over the medial calcaneal tubercle and discomfort with
59 passive dorsiflexion of the first toe.¹ Physical examinations on patients with PF often include a
60 pes planus or cavus foot, shortened Achilles tendon, overpronation or under pronation, limited
61 ankle dorsiflexion, weak intrinsic muscles on the foot, and weak plantar flexor muscles.¹
62 Treatment typically is focused on decreasing inflammation, supporting the longitudinal arch, and
63 stretching tight tissues such as the plantar fascia. Rest, cryotherapy, nonsteroidal anti-
64 inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS), orthotics, night splints, application of tape, and intrinsic/extrinsic
65 foot muscle strengthening are also utilized in conservative treatment of PF.

66 Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT) has been utilized with fair success in the
67 treatment of PF. ESWT is a non-invasive modality that uses sound waves to create a controlled
68 microtrauma to the impaired tissue. This stimulates a healing response and micro-
69 vascularization. Furthermore, it induces the release of enzymes, affecting nociceptors, resulting
70 in localized analgesia.⁵ Saxena et al compared the use of ESWT, placebo ESWT, and endoscopic

71 plantar fasciotomy (EPF) on athletes who had PF. The study showed that EPF had a significantly
72 better outcome with significantly lower post-EPF Visual Analogue Scale (VAS).⁶ Post-treatment
73 of both the ESWT and P-ESWT groups improved, but ESWT was not significantly better.⁶ Hsu
74 et al performed a study researching the effects of shockwave therapy on plantar fasciopathy from
75 a biomechanical perspective. This particular study concluded that its effects on the specific foot
76 biomechanics not only decreased the pain VAS but also improved gait in the affected foot three
77 weeks following repetitive treatment.⁷

78 Hip strengthening protocols have recently shown improvement in distal PF signs and
79 symptoms. This is important because proximal strength is often overlooked when treating distal
80 lower extremity (LE) injuries. Santos et al. found that a combination of the two interventions
81 showed meaningful improvement in strength and pressure pain threshold and an overall decrease
82 in pain in patients with PF.⁸ Research backs the importance of hip strengthening and its impact
83 on the ankle, emphasizing this treatment intervention.⁸ Furthermore, since the abductors and
84 lateral rotators are involved in the alignment of the lower limbs, weakened muscles can lead to
85 adduction and medial rotation of the hip and dynamic knee valgus, ultimately leading to
86 pronation of the foot.^{3,5} This is considered a low risk factor for PF mentioned by Martin et al.³
87 According to Kamonseki, the effect of targeted hip strengthening on PF is not yet fully
88 understood.⁵ There is evidence supporting PF with conservative, traditional PT interventions,
89 electroshock therapy and more recent hip strengthening protocols individually, however, there is
90 a lack of evidence investigating their combined effect. Therefore, the purpose of this case report
91 was to investigate the recovery of a patient with PF while using a combined approach of
92 conventional therapy, targeted hip strengthening, and electroshock therapy.

93 **Patient History and Systems Review**

94 The patient was a 48-year-old female presenting to the clinic with a diagnosis of right PF
95 who signed informed consent acknowledging the participation in this case report and allowing
96 the use of their personal health information for this case report. The patient had a history of
97 bilateral bunion surgery, cancer and radiation to the salivary gland, thyroid removal, and ESWT
98 to the right foot earlier in the year. One year prior, the patient reported going for a run and
99 feeling a sharp pain in the heel. After an unsuccessful attempt to rest her heel, she saw the
100 doctor, and was diagnosed with a heel spur. She was then referred to physical therapy. Two
101 weeks later, her pain worsened with stretching, so she returned to the MD for a re-evaluation.
102 Two months later the patient had an MRI which showed a torn plantar fascia. Treatment resulted
103 in the patient wearing a boot, resting and returning to physical therapy for four months. The
104 patient noted at this time she wasn't able to get past 75% on the Alter G (Fremont, CA) for 15
105 minutes due to pain. The patient continued to feel pain, and she returned to the doctor. The
106 patient trialed ESWT earlier in the year and was told to rest after this treatment. After ESWT, the
107 patient noticed an improvement in the distance she was able to walk, progressing from 0.5 to 2
108 miles at a time. However, one day after only making it two blocks from home, she reported
109 continued sharp pain in her foot. She again returned to the doctor 1 week prior to initial
110 evaluation and was referred to physical therapy.

111 The patient reported her pain as an aching/dull/throbbing sensation, which was
112 occasionally sharp with walking. The pain was noted to radiate along the plantar surface of the
113 foot and up the anterior and posterior lower leg. Additionally, the patient described an achy
114 feeling around her heel and a recent increase in pain at the dorsum of the foot. The patient stated
115 she had difficulty with weight bearing activities such as walking, ascending/descending stairs,

116 running, and standing on her feet. The patient reported taking thyroid medication and an
117 unremarkable family history.

118 The patient reported having a good understanding of her case and current situation. She
119 also understood that PF required lifelong management in order to decrease the risk of recurrence.
120 The patient stated she found relief with electroshock therapy for a few weeks and was hopeful
121 that with the second treatment in August, will help improve her prior level of function. The
122 primary problem for this case was the recurrent and prolonged injury of the plantar fascia
123 causing sharp pains on the plantar surface of the right foot limiting the patient's ability to
124 participate in activities of daily living (ADL).

125 Potential differential diagnoses that were addressed included examination for fallen or
126 high arches, posterior tibialis tendonitis, bone spurring, intrinsic foot muscle weakness, fractures,
127 muscle weakness, and Achilles tendonitis. The plan for examination included manual muscle
128 testing, arch analysis, testing navicular drop, range of motion testing, strengthening exercises,
129 balance testing and LE functional testing. This patient remained a good candidate for this case
130 report due to her complicated medical history, recurring pain in the right foot, and treatment with
131 electroshock therapy with its impact on the physical therapy rehabilitation.

132 A complete systems review can be seen in Table 1.

133 **Examination – Tests and Measures**

134 The tests and measures performed along with results can be found in Table 2.

135 The Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS) was administered in order to evaluate the
136 impact of the patient's plantar fascia injury on their ability to perform everyday tasks or ADLs.
137 The LEFS is a subjective outcome measurement out of a total of 80 points, with a higher score

138 demonstrating less difficulty. According to Mehta et al, the LEFS is a “reliable, valid, and
139 responsive tool for assessing disability resulting from LE musculoskeletal conditions”.⁹

140 The Numeric Pain Rating Scale (NPRS) is a numerical measure of pain intensity in
141 patients with a scale ranging from zero to ten. Zero on the scale represents no pain, and a ten on
142 the scale represents the worst possible pain. The NPRS has excellent evidence supporting the
143 validity and sensitivity for the use of this scale in physical therapy practices.¹⁰

144 Palpation was performed over the lower limb, ankle and foot region in order to determine
145 areas of tenderness, edema, sensitivity and inflammation. The results of palpation are listed in
146 Table 2. Techniques for palpation were followed based off the palpation techniques published by
147 Reighert.¹¹

148 Range of motion (ROM) was measured using a standard goniometer based off the
149 methods and procedures taught by Norkin and White. Measurements were taken in the ankle and
150 phalanges.¹²

151 Manual Muscle Testing (MMT) was used to assess LE strength based off the methods
152 and procedures of Kendall.¹³ According to Bohannon, reliable assessments of strength may not
153 be assumed but is possible to be achieved. It is understood that further studies need to be
154 performed in order to assess the reliability of MMT across joints.¹⁴

155 Observational gait analysis (OGA) was briefly assessed while the patient was entering the
156 clinic. The patient was assessed while walking in sneakers from the waiting area to the treatment
157 table on a carpeted surface. Brief observations are listed in Table 2. Intra- and interrater
158 reliability was found to be good, however a learning effect may need to be taken into
159 consideration when looking at the results when interpreting follow-up measurements after a few
160 days.¹⁵

161 **Clinical Impression: Evaluation, Diagnosis, Prognosis**

162 Following the initial examination, the patient’s presentation was consistent with the
163 diagnosis of PF. The functional deficits aforementioned impacted her ability to perform ADLs
164 requiring walking or moving. She was unable to participate in any physical activity without pain
165 including exercises at the gym or walking in the community. This in addition to pain with ADLs
166 and difficulty ascending/descending stairs made her an excellent candidate for skilled physical
167 therapy. The medical diagnoses were used according to the International Classification of
168 Disease tenth edition (ICD-10) and included: M72.2: Plantar fascial fibromatosis, M79.671: Pain
169 in right foot.

170 The patient’s prognosis was determined to be good due to her willingness to participate,
171 lack of comorbidities, medical diagnosis, and compliance with physical therapy. Conventional
172 physical therapy has been shown to improve deficits caused by this particular injury, but this
173 patient was also receiving electroshock therapy as an additional intervention. A study performed
174 by Tae et al demonstrates the positive impacts of both conventional therapy and the shock
175 therapy in relieving pain, improving gait, strength, and foot mechanics.¹⁶

176 Due to the nature and prognosis of the plantar fascia injury, there was no referral or
177 consultation necessary. Additional testing/follow-up evaluations of outcomes were completed at
178 re-evaluation. Further testing included continued strength testing of the core and hips after an
179 intensive strengthening program had been implemented for about 6 weeks. The plan for
180 interventions included manual therapy, soft tissue massage, cross friction massage, arch taping
181 techniques, orthotics, knee, hip and core strengthening, balance activities, and functional
182 activities.

183 See table 4 for short- and long-term goals.

184 **Intervention and Plan of Care**

185 After the initial evaluation (IE), a plan of care (POC) was created and appointments were
186 scheduled for follow up treatment sessions. The patient attended 2-3 sessions per week lasting
187 about an hour in length. The patient attended nine sessions total over the course of three weeks,
188 the first being the IE. The patient demonstrated excellent compliance attending appointments,
189 always making sure to reschedule if necessary. The patient emailed with any questions or
190 concerns in terms of pain exacerbation or clarification on exercises. Communication was not
191 only maintained through email, but also during sessions where the patient felt comfortable asking
192 questions. The IE and subsequent daily notes were documented using electronic medical records
193 (EMR), specifically WebPT.

194 Procedural interventions included manual therapy, stretching, therapeutic exercises,
195 taping techniques, and pneumatic devices such as the Game Ready (Concord, California) for post
196 treatment soreness and inflammation that may have occurred during the session. The patient
197 reported compliance of her home exercise program (HEP) and demonstrated knowledge and
198 proper technique when reviewed. All procedural interventions performed can be found in Table
199 3.

200 Manual therapy was utilized in the form of soft tissue massage (STM) to the
201 gastrocnemius, soleus, plantar fascia, and muscles on the dorsum foot. This was intended to
202 relieve hypertonicity and spasticity in areas that were overactive, ultimately hoping to improve
203 the ROM deficits. Additionally, STM in the form of elevated retrograde massage was used to
204 help decrease the edema and inflammation present around the plantar fascia insertion site. The
205 ultimate purpose of the STM was to perform a myofascial release of the plantar fascia itself.

206 Piper et al. has supported the use of myofascial release to the gastrocnemius, soleus and plantar
207 fascia establishing its effectiveness.¹⁷

208 The patient was instructed in gentle stretching to the plantar fascia with the patient's
209 ankle remaining in a neutral position and extending the great toe. The patient was educated in the
210 techniques of pain free gentle stretching. Stretching activities were performed in patients with PF
211 with positive outcomes, supporting the use through this case study.¹⁸ Due to the patient
212 presenting with hypertonicity in the gastrocnemius, the patient was stretched in a long sitting
213 position with a strap and progressed to standing on a wedge. Care was taken to keep the plantar
214 fascia on slack initially to allow for healing.

215 Therapeutic exercise was utilized in order to target the intrinsic strength of the muscles
216 supporting the MLA and other bones in the foot. The intrinsic muscles of the foot are used to
217 support the arch along with the plantar fascia and fatigue can be a factor with PF. Due to the
218 patient's presentation of a low arch, significant navicular drop and suspected weakness of the
219 intrinsic muscles, a strengthening protocol was utilized. Headlee et al also performed a study that
220 revealed increased navicular drop after fatiguing the intrinsic foot muscles.¹⁹ Intrinsic
221 strengthening exercises included arch doming, towel scrunches, and marble pick-ups.

222 Taping was utilized to provide extra support to the navicular bone and foot structure in
223 order to help create an arch. The leukotape, with a white stretch tape base, was placed on the
224 mid-lateral aspect of the dorsum of the foot, with about 1-inch anchor. From there, the physical
225 therapist applied 20% force to the tape, pulling it directly up over the navicular bone, and up
226 over the top of the foot, crossing to the lateral malleolus. The effectiveness of biomechanically
227 controlling tensile forces generated through the plantar fascia through the utilization of taping
228 techniques was supported by Hunt et al's study.²⁰

229 The patient progressed through manual therapy, stretching, and therapeutic exercises.
230 Initially, the patient presented with functional deficits in the foot, but as further testing was
231 performed on the calf, knee, hip and core other deficits became apparent. When the patient
232 tolerated one or two treatment sessions with no exacerbations of pain or symptoms, she
233 progressed to include more intensive activities. If she presented with an increase in pain or
234 symptoms, the manual therapy and therapeutic exercises were adjusted accordingly.
235 Understanding that weak gluteal muscles contribute to improper foot mechanics, it was
236 important to incorporate proximal strengthening activities as well

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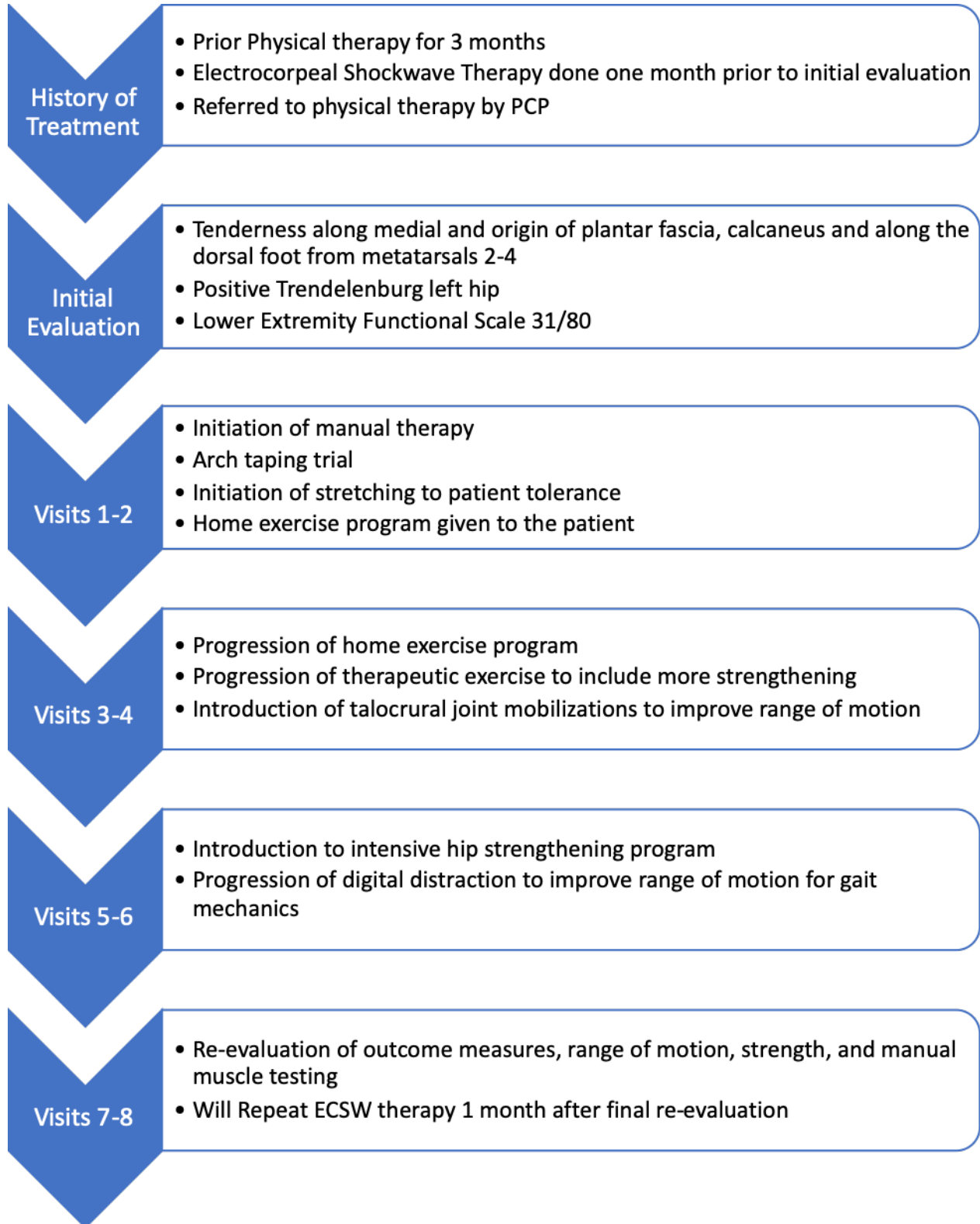
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TIMELINE



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255 **OUTCOMES**

256 Over the course of nine sessions, the patient reported a general decrease in pain, however,
257 symptoms did not completely resolve. Final outcomes included an improvement on the LEFS
258 from 31/80 to 53/80. Additionally, the NPRS pain at best, current, and worst improved. Worst
259 remained the same at a 7/10, current pain decreased from a 4/10 to 2/10, and pain at best
260 improved from a 2/10 to 0/10. Palpation tenderness improved initially from tenderness along
261 medial and origin of plantar fascia, and calcaneus and mild tenderness along dorsal foot from
262 metatarsals 2-4 to only being present over the plantar fascia insertion. Ankle and toe range of
263 motion remained within functional limits from initial evaluation to re-evaluation. Dorsiflexion
264 and plantarflexion manual muscle testing remained 5/5 bilaterally. Right gastrocnemius strength
265 improved from a 4/5 to a 4+/5, and remained 5/5 from pre and post testing on the left. Extensor
266 hallucis strength improved from left 4+/5 to 5/5 and right 3+/5 to 4/5. Flexor hallucis strength
267 improved from left 4+/5 to 5/5 and right 3+/5 to 4/5. The patients gait evaluation no longer
268 demonstrated a positive Trendelenburg on the left side upon re-evaluation.

269 **DISCUSSION**

270 The case report describes a comprehensive PT program combining the effects of a
271 comprehensive PT program and ESWT for the treatment of a patient with PF. Due to the
272 chronicity of PF, it often is a difficult diagnosis to treat. ESWT has been utilized with fair
273 success in the treatment of PF.⁵ A study researching the effects of ESWT on PF from a
274 biomechanical perspective was performed and concluded that its effects on foot biomechanics
275 not only decreased the pain on VAS, but also improved gait in the affected foot three weeks
276 following repetitive treatment.⁷ Individually, there is research upholding hip strengthening and
277 its impact on the foot and ankle to improve foot/gait mechanics, there is research supporting the

278 use of conventional physical therapy on PF, and there is limited research on ECSW therapy.
279 However, there is limited research on the combined effects of a hip strengthening program
280 intertwined with conventional physical therapy and shockwave therapy. This particular case
281 report was able to look at the impact of all these interventions in one combined treatment on a
282 patient diagnosed with PF.

283 Based on the outcome measures, the patient appeared to improve from the interventions
284 applied. These findings suggest that patients with PF may benefit from a combined
285 comprehensive physical therapy that includes targeted hip strengthening and shockwave therapy.

286 One limitation that presented itself during this case report was the duration of physical
287 therapy sessions. While the patient was initially complaint in attending, after returning from a
288 vacation later in the summer, she felt as though her progress had plateaued and opted for a break
289 to see how she could function with only a HEP. While she did hip strengthening as part of her
290 HEP, it may have been more effective with regular PT visits. Conversely, a study by De Carlo et
291 al indicated that patients undergoing ACL reconstruction and following a rehabilitation protocol
292 did not require a high number of physical therapy visits to achieve a favorable outcome.²¹

293 Although this study was about patients undergoing an ACL reconstruction, the concept about
294 less visits may carryover indicating that a lack of visits may not have impacted the outcomes
295 after all.

296 Strengths in this case study included the diligence of adhering to the HEP and that the
297 patient was able to make improvements within the first few weeks of treatment.

298 In conclusion, a comprehensive physical therapy program including targeted hip
299 strengthening and ECSW therapy for a patient with PF resulted in increased functional abilities,
300 increased strength, and a decrease in pain. While the patient was attending PT sessions, success

301 may have benefitted from the patient's compliance when showing up on time, performing her
302 home exercise program routinely, and providing adequate feedback in order to progress
303 appropriately throughout the treatment interventions. While there is limited research about
304 ECSW therapy for the treatment of PF, when combined with conventional therapy, there was a
305 positive outcome in results. Additional research is necessary to determine the effectiveness of
306 targeted hip strengthening and ESWT specifically for chronic cases of patients with PF.

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417 **TABLES and FIGURES (Max of six total)**

418 Table 1: Systems Review

Cardiovascular/Pulmonary	Edema present in R medial proximal arch
Musculoskeletal	Bunion surgery, have since returned Gross strength impairments of right hip, ankle, great toe Gross range of motion impairments of the right great toe
Neuromuscular	Intact
Integumentary	History of cancer and radiation to salivary gland – not currently active
Endocrine	Cancer and radiation to salivary gland Thyroid removal Continued follow up with MD for check-ups
Communication	Intact
Affect, Cognition, Language, Learning Style	Intact

419 R = Right, MD = doctor

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431 Table 2: Tests and Measures

Tests & Measures	Initial Evaluation Results	Discharge Evaluation Results
Lower Extremity Functional Scale	31/80	53/80
Numeric Pain Rating Scale (0-10)	Best: 2/10 Current: 4/10 Worst: 7/10	Best: 0/10 Current: 2/10 Worst: 7/10
Palpation	Tenderness along medial and origin of plantar fascia, and calcaneus Mild tenderness along dorsal foot from metatarsals 2-4	Tenderness over plantar fascia insertion
Range of Motion		
Ankle	Within functional limits	Within functional limits
Toe	Within functional limits	Within functional limits
Manual Muscle Testing		
Ankle		
Dorsiflexion	5/5 Bilaterally	5/5 Bilaterally
Plantarflexion	5/5 Bilaterally	5/5 Bilaterally
Gastrocnemius	L: 5/5 R: 4/5	L: 5/5 R: 4+/5
Toes		
Extensor Hallucis	L: 4+/5 R: 3+/5	L: 5/5 R: 4/5
Flexor Hallucis	L:4+/5 R: 3+/5	L: 5/5 R: 4/5
Gait	Positive Trendelenburg on left side	Normal gait pattern

432 L = left, R = right

Table 3: Procedural Interventions	Initial Evaluation	Rx Day 1	Rx Day 2	Rx Day 3	Rx Day 4	Rx Day 5	Rx Day 6	Rx Day 7	Rx Day 8
Manual Therapy									
STM Gastroc/Soleus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Great Toe Extension Stretch	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"
Arch Tape	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Retrograde Massage					Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge
TC A-P Mobs Grade 2					Supine	Supine	Supine	Supine	Supine
Digital Distraction					Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge	Foot elevated on wedge		
Therapeutic Exercise									
Upright Bike			8 mins	10 mins		Recumbent bike 10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins
Ice Foot Roll			2 mins	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins	2 mins
Towel Scrunches		2 mins							
Ankle 4 Way with TheraBand		3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band	3 x 10 green band
Arch Dome									1 x 15
Great toe stretch		3 x 30" with towel	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral	3 x 30" with strap, foot neutral
Runner Stretch with bent knee		3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"
MFR Stick			2 mins-calf	2 mins-calf	2 mins-calf	2 mins-calf and anterior tibialis	2 mins-calf	2 mins	2 mins

Marble Pick up			2 mins	2 mins		3 mins	3 mins	3 mins	3 mins
Lateral walk with TheraBand						25 feet x 2 red band		25 feet x 2 red band	25 feet x 2 red band
SLS balance on Airex						3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"	3 x 30"
Clamshells with TheraBand						3x10-red B	3x10-red B	3x10-red B	3x10-red B
Modalities									
Game Ready	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins	10 mins		10 mins – Cold pack	10 mins – cold pack

433 Rx = treatment, STM = soft tissue massage, gastroc = gastrocnemius, TC = talocrural, A-P = anterior-posterior, MFR = myofascial

434 release, SLS – single leg stance, “ = seconds, B = bilateral, mins = minutes,

435 Table 4: Short- and Long-Term Goals

Short Term Goals	Long Term Goals
The patient will be independent with HEP	The patient will demonstrate equal strength bilaterally to improve proper foot mechanics for ambulation
The patient will demonstrate pain-free walking < 5 minutes to perform light ADLs	The patient will tolerate 30 minutes of pain-free walking to improve community interaction
The patient will demonstrate improved strength by ½ grade to improve foot support and push off	The patient will report 0/10 on the Visual Analog Scale in order to fully participate in ADLs at home
The patient will demonstrate reduced pain to 1/10 at foot and calf for standing 1 hour to complete work tasks.	The patient will run without pain for 1 mile in order to return to previous physical activity

436 HEP = home exercise program, ADLs = activities of daily living

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451 **CARE Checklist**

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CARE Content Area	Page
1. Title – The area of focus and “case report” should appear in the title	2
2. Key Words – Two to five key words that identify topics in this case report	2
3. Abstract – (structure or unstructured) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introduction – What is unique and why is it important? b. The patient’s main concerns and important clinical findings. c. The main diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes. d. Conclusion—What are one or more “take-away” lessons? 	3
4. Introduction – Briefly summarize why this case is unique with medical literature references.	3-4
5. Patient Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. De-identified demographic and other patient information. b. Main concerns and symptoms of the patient. c. Medical, family, and psychosocial history including genetic information. d. Relevant past interventions and their outcomes. 	5-6
6. Clinical Findings – Relevant physical examination (PE) and other clinical findings	8
7. Timeline – Relevant data from this episode of care organized as a timeline (figure or table).	12
8. Diagnostic Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Diagnostic methods (PE, laboratory testing, imaging, surveys). b. Diagnostic challenges. c. Diagnostic reasoning including differential diagnosis. d. Prognostic characteristics when applicable. 	5-8
9. Therapeutic Intervention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Types of intervention (pharmacologic, surgical, preventive). b. Administration of intervention (dosage, strength, duration). c. Changes in the interventions with explanations. 	9-11
10. Follow-up and Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clinician and patient-assessed outcomes when appropriate. b. Important follow-up diagnostic and other test results. c. Intervention adherence and tolerability (how was this assessed)? d. Adverse and unanticipated events. 	13
11. Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case. b. Discussion of the relevant medical literature. c. The rationale for your conclusions. d. The primary “take-away” lessons from this case report. 	13-15
12. Patient Perspective – The patient can share their perspective on their case.	6
13. Informed Consent – The patient should give informed consent.	1, 5