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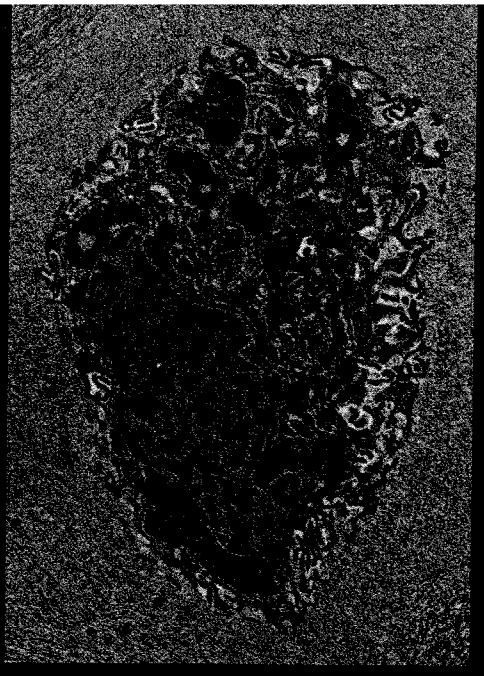

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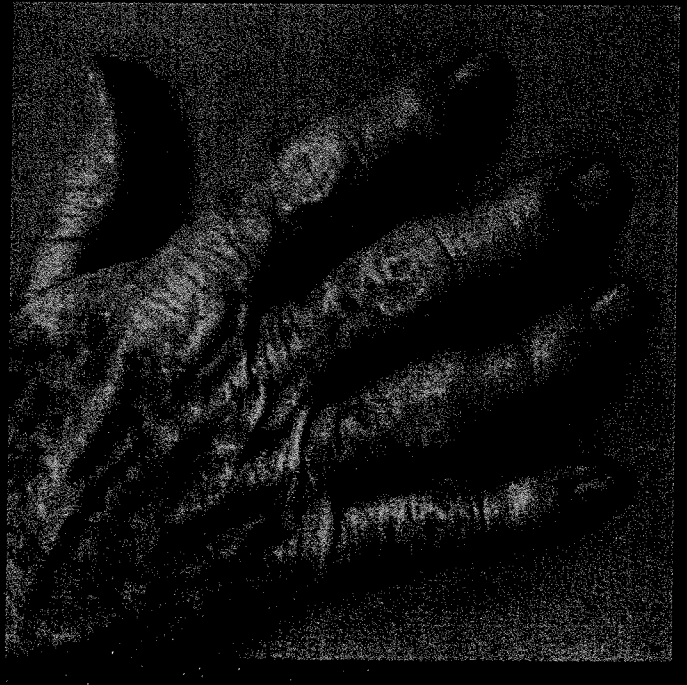

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INTRA-ARTICULAR HYALURONATE EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN TREATMENT OF KNEE OA

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Aim: The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy, the duration of the efficacy and safety of intra-articular hyaluronate treatment in 40 patients with mild to moderate OA of the knee (2-3 degree Keligren).

Patients and Methods: Treatment was one intra-articular injection of a 1% sodium hyaluronate in 2 ml buffer solution (OSTENIL) per week for 5 consecutive weeks; 40 patients (32 females and 8 males, with a weight average of 64.4 kg and 56.8 year old mean) were followed for 6 months to assess efficacy, safety, and patient satisfaction, and was realized a wash out period for the OA treatment. An X-ray was taken at baseline. Periodic controls for the Lequesne index, pain (visual analogue scale), and subjective efficacy were carried out.

Results: At baseline, 87.5% of the patients showed a total incapacity in one of the minimum daily life activities, assessed by Lequesne index. At the end of the study the efficacy variables, showed an absolute improvement in 97.5% of the patients. For all variables, the results were statistically significant in the evolution analysis for all visits (Friedman $p<0.001$ in all comparisons). Ninety five percent (95%) of the patients assessed treatment efficacy as very good or excellent, and the treatment showed a total safety during the study.

Conclusions: These results show that the intra-articular treatment of knee OA process, with 5 intra-articular injections of OSTENIL is safe and effective, with significant improvements in all the studied indices (97.5%) and this improvement was maintained until the end of the study period (6 months).