

Scalp Application of Near-infrared Light-emitting Diode (LED) to Improve Cognition in Chronic Traumatic Brain Injury(TBI), Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Dementia, and Gulf War Illness (GWI)

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- VA/National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research, 40 years
- Since 2010: Research on effects of red/near-infrared (NIR) light-emitting diodes (LEDs) on scalp/brain for traumatic brain injury (TBI)/posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), dementia, Gulf War Illness (GWI), stroke/aphasia, athletes with chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).
- Focus: neuroplasticity, photobiomodulation for neuromodulation and recovery.
- Editorial Board, Photomedicine and Laser Surgery (PMLS), and Fellow, American Society for Lasers in Medicine and Surgery (ASLMS)
- BA Smith College; PhD University of Wisconsin, Madison

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- Holds a PhD in Behavioral Neurosciences and a PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology.
- Serves without compensation on the Cognitive Rehabilitation Task Force and the AP Technology Task Force of Military & Veteran Group at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine

Disclosures



- Drs. Margaret Naeser and Yelena Bogdanova have no relevant financial or non-financial relationships to disclose relating to the content of this activity.
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- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of Defense, nor the U.S. Government.
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- Commercial support was not received for this activity.

Learning Objectives



At the end of the activity, the learners will be able to:

1. Describe the basics of low-level laser or light-emitting diode (LED) therapies - red, near-infrared wavelengths, terminology, depth of penetration.
2. Analyze results from research with scalp application of red/near-infrared LED to help treat chronic traumatic brain injury (TBI)/post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
3. Discuss the results from Dementia Studies, and Gulf War Illness study.

“Scalp Application of near-infrared LEDs to Improve Cognition in Chronic TBI/PTSD, Dementia, and GWI”

Three Parts to this Lecture:

1. Terminology, Photobiomodulation (PBM); Cellular Effects

Low-level lasers or light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

Wavelengths; Joules/cm² delivered per placement;
power of device; power density, mW/cm²

2. Chronic, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Naeser, Zafonte, Krengel et al., 2014, *J. of Neurotrauma*

VA Boston Healthcare System

Naeser, Martin, Ho et al., 2016, *Photomedicine & Laser Surgery (PMLS)*

3. Dementia; and Gulf War Illness

Dementia: Saltmarche, Naeser, Ho, Hamblin, Lim, 2017, *PMLS*; Chao, 2019, *PMLS*

GWI: Chao, 2019, *Military Med.*; Martin, Chao, Krengel et al., 2021, *Frontiers Neurol.*

Part 1. Terminology and Definitions

for Photobiomodulation (PBM), with low-level lasers or LEDs

Photons

- Elementary particles of light with properties of a wave and a particle
- Electrically neutral

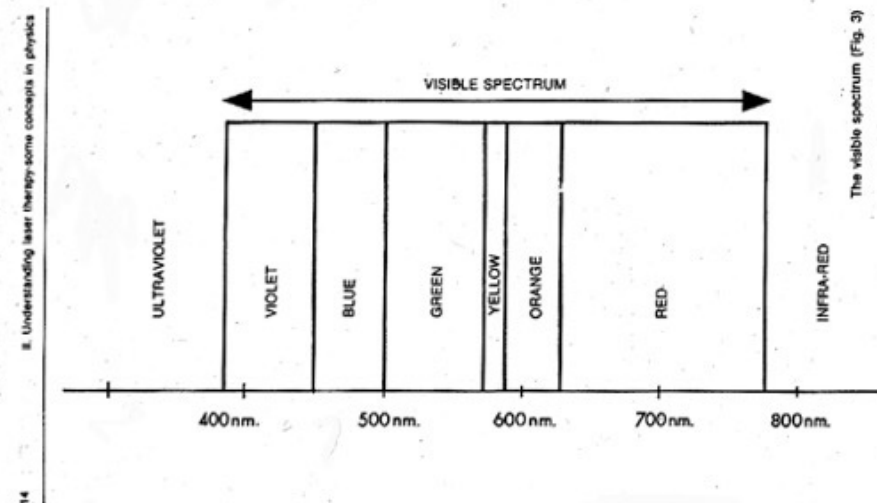
Wavelengths of Light Reported in nanometers (nm) billionth of a meter

Visible Light

- Spectrum Range: 390nm-700nm; blue/violet to red. Some report 400nm to 650 nm.
- Penetration depth of **red**, is approximately **1 mm direct energy**

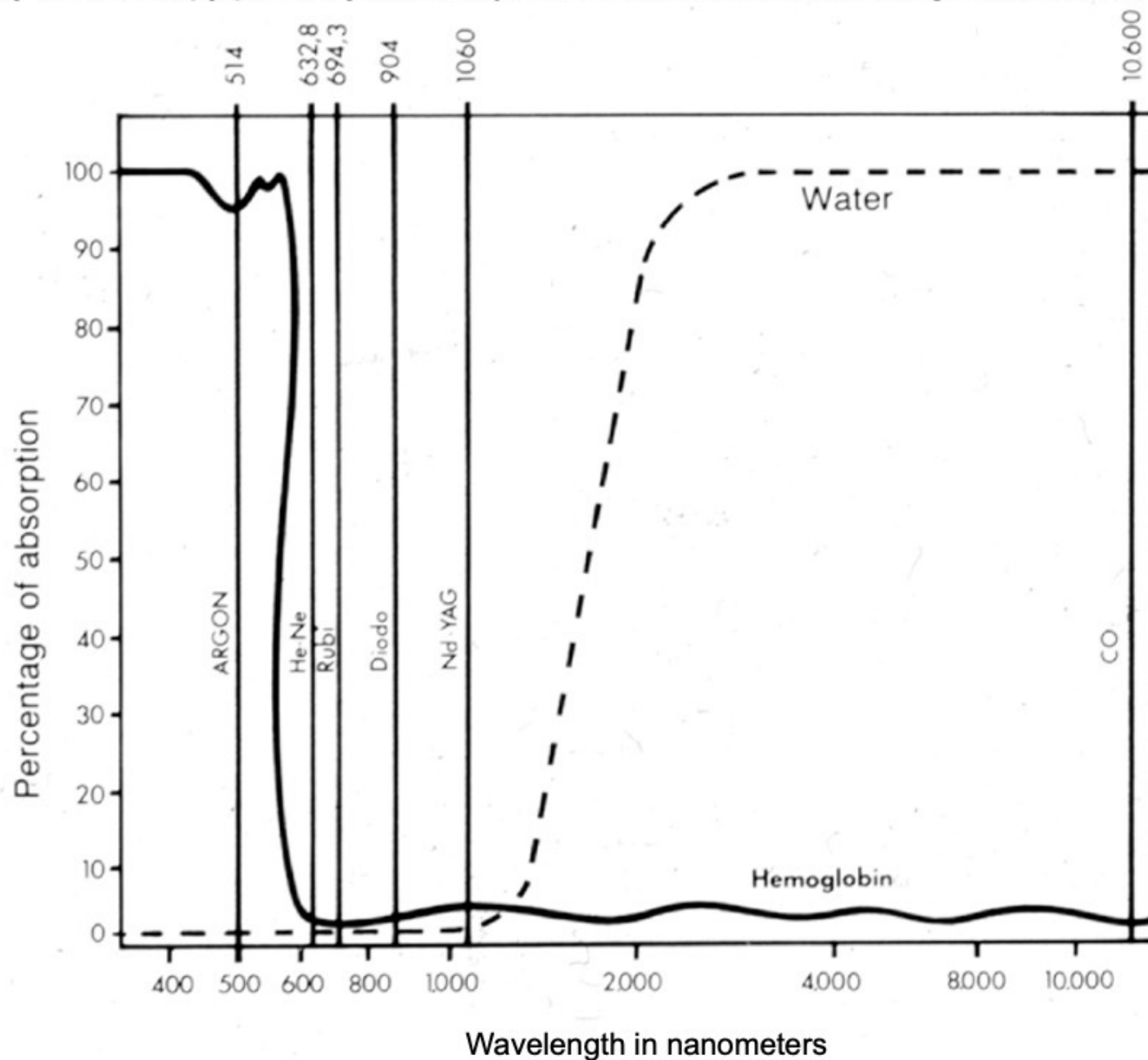
Non-visible Light, shorter or longer wavelengths

- Shorter wavelengths
 - Less than 390nm
 - **320nm or less are cancer causing**
- Longer wavelengths
 - >700nm
 - penetrate deeper
 - Near-Infrared (810nm - 904nm)
 - *1-2 cm depth penetration*



Source: Colls Cruanes J: Laser Therapy Today, Barcelona, Laser Documentation Center, S.A., Calle Dalmau 11 - 08014, 2nd Edition, November, 1985; ISBN 84-398-6137-0. Translated by Lucie Maguire

Explains why PBM therapy primarily uses only red or near-infrared wavelengths, 600nm to 1100nm.



Laser Wavelengths (nm), and Depth of Laser Penetration

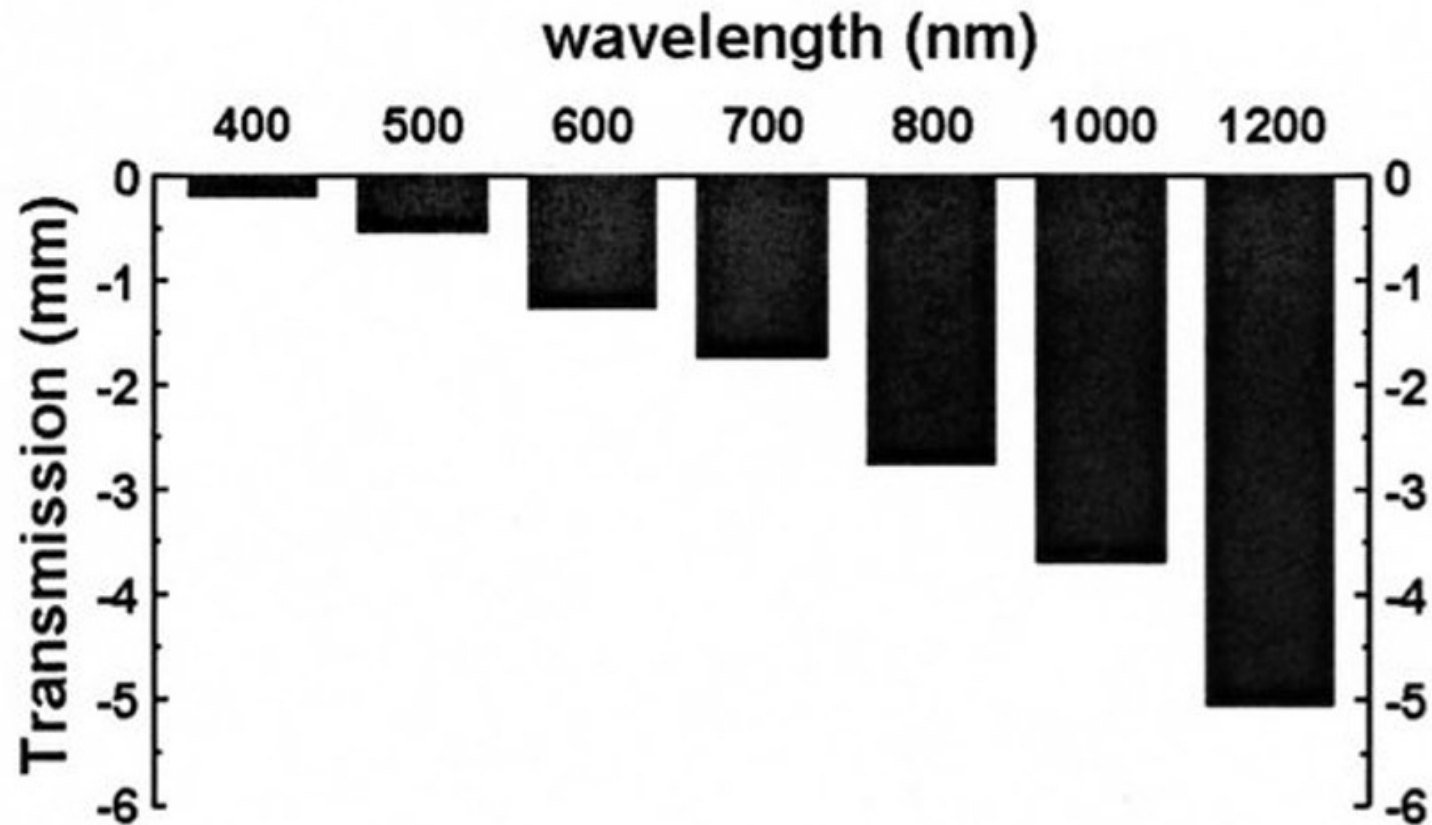
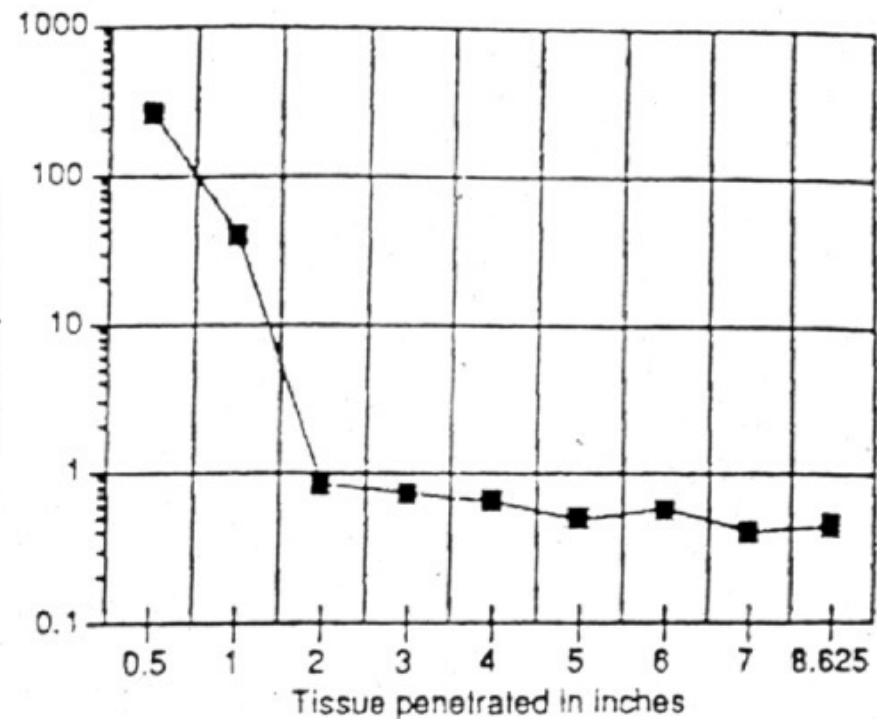
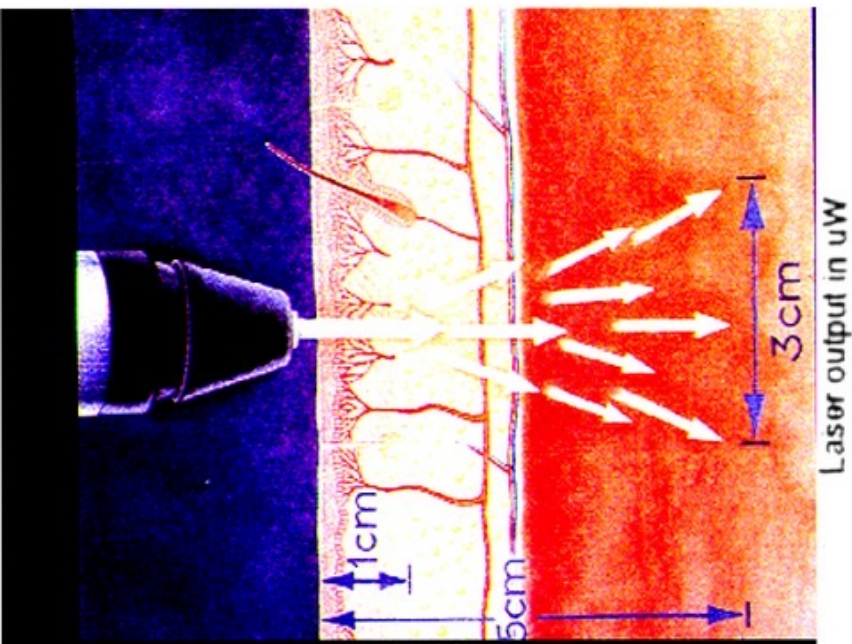


Fig. 1 Transmission in skin. Approximate skin transmission depth at which the incident radiant exposure has decreased by 90%. The transmission depth for a 99% decrease can be calculated by doubling the corresponding 90% depth. Data shown are for fair Caucasian skin. Graph drawn from data presented in [29]



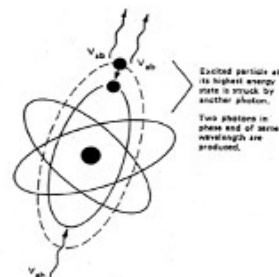
Infrared laser, 904 nm

10 Watt peak power pulsed (3,500 pps), gallium arsenide diodes

Four laser diodes placed in a horizontal strip 5.6 cm long

Pulse width, 157 ns for pulses generated

Hudson DE. Preliminary study to measure laser light and LED penetration through tissue. Respond Systems (Branford, CT) Technical Report;1997:1-4. 11



Excited particle at its highest energy state is struck by another photon. Two photons in phase and of same wavelength are produced.

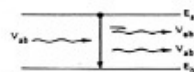


FIGURE 9-1
The principle of stimulated emission. Two photons are emitted from orbit when another photon strikes. E_a , E_b = electron; V_{ab} = energy of photon.

Source: Seitz LM, Kleinkort JA: Low-Power Laser: Its Applications in Physical Therapy. Chapter 9, in *Thermal Agents in Rehabilitation*. Michlovitz SL, Editor and Wolf SL, Editor-in-Chief. Philadelphia, F.A. Davis Co., 1986, pp. 217-238.

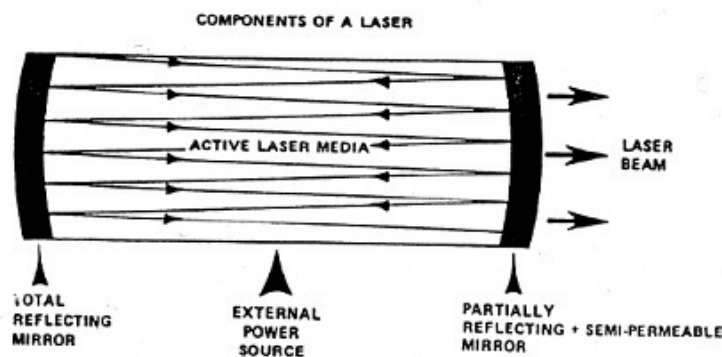
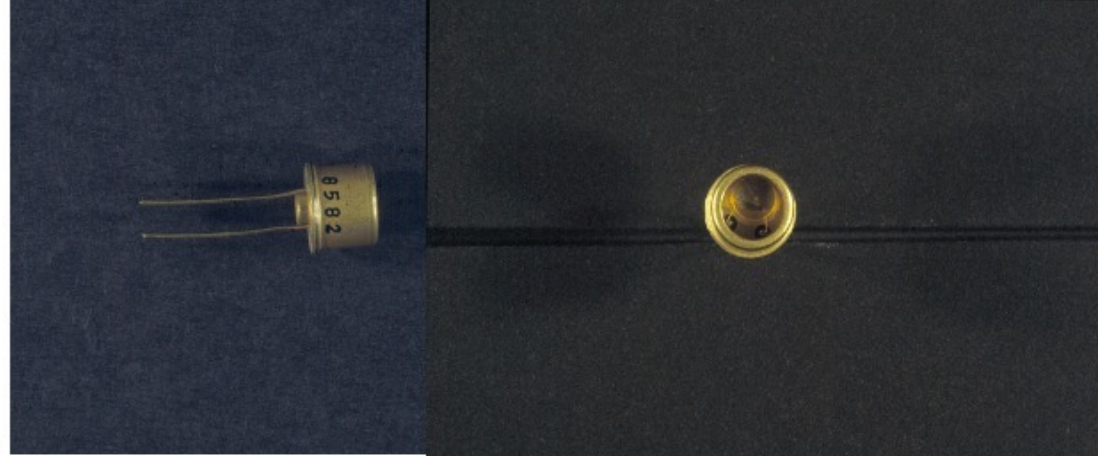


FIGURE 9-3
Basic components of laser.

Laser light has photons that are monochromatic and coherent.

Source: Seitz LM, Kleinkort JA: Low-Power Laser: Its Applications in Physical Therapy. Chapter 9, in *Thermal Agents in Rehabilitation*. Michlovitz SL, Editor and Wolf SL, Editor-in-Chief. Philadelphia, F.A. Davis Co., 1986, pp. 217-238.



Sample, near-infrared, gallium arsenide laser diode, 904nm.

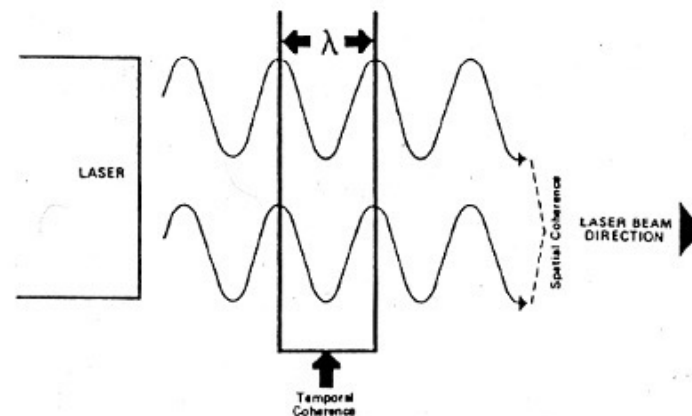


FIGURE 9-4
Coherence—The laser is highly coherent in temporal and spatial planes.

Higher Power Lasers

Class IV (>500 mW or even 100 W)

Coherent, and monochromatic light

Hazardous to eyes, requires goggles

Lens of the eye would further intensify the laser beam

Need U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval

Used in surgery and for tissue ablation



Lower Power Lasers = Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT)

Class IIIb (5-500mW)

Coherent, and monochromatic light

'cold lasers' (do not heat up)

Only hazard if pointed directly into cornea/lens/r

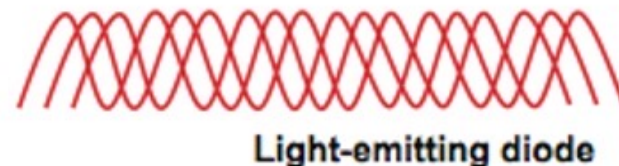


Light-emitting Diodes (LEDs)

Most of the therapeutic ones are 500-1000mW

Noncoherent, but are monochromatic light

Not required to wear goggles; no ocular hazard



MeSH Term Now: Photobiomodulation, PBM, since 2015. Formerly, LLLT

How to Calculate the Number of Sec. Required to Produce 1 Joule of Energy

Three variables are listed below which you must know about a specific laser, before using it. You will also need to know the beam spot size in cm^2 , which is explained later.

1. The **Wavelength**, in nanometers (nm, one billionth of a meter). For "laser acupuncture," the wavelength is usually in the red-to-infrared range of 600-1,000 nm. Otherwise, the hemoglobin or water may block the laser beam. The laser manufacturer supplies information on the nm wavelength for each laser.
2. The **Power**, number of watts, or milliwatts (mw). Usually only 5 or 500 mw (always less than 500 mw). If the laser is greater than 500 mw, it will cause an "ouch" response, and will burn the skin. The laser manufacturer supplies information on the number of milliwatts for each laser.
3. The number of seconds exposure = 1 joule of energy **A "joule" is a unit of work energy - for example, the energy expended by a current of 1 ampere flowing for 1 second through a resistance of 1 ohm.**

Some low-level laser research or clinical papers are published showing only the number of Joules (J) used, per point on the skin. **It is better, however, to know treatment protocols in J/cm^2 , per point, or per cm^2 on the skin**, as is explained on additional pages in this handout. When J/cm^2 is calculated for a specific laser, the beam spot size must also be known (in cm^2). It is important, however, to understand the basic concept of Joule, or unit of work energy.

Energy Density Dosages (Joules/cm²) *per Point* for Various Treatment Effects

These are also generally used with LED Therapies.

- Analgesic effect: Muscular pain ----- 2 to 4 joules/cm²
Joint pain ----- 4 to 8 joules/cm²
- Anti-inflammatory effect: Acute and subacute 1 to 6 joules/cm²
Chronic ----- 4 to 8 joules/cm²
- Eutrophic effect: ----- 3 to 6 joules/cm²
- Circulatory effect: ----- 1 to 3 joules/cm²

Note: The World Association for Laser Therapy, WALT,
also has a list of Dosages, but only in Joules, not Joules/cm²

How to Calculate Number of Seconds Required to Produce 1 J/cm^2 from a laser or LED

Formula: $1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{\text{Beam Spot Size in cm}^2}{\text{Power Output of Laser in Watts}} (\pi \times r^2)$

With a **500 mW** Laser, with a 1.14 cm diameter aperture:

Power Output, in Watts: 500 mW (milliwatts) = .500 W (Watts)

Beam Diameter, in cm: 1.14 cm Beam Radius, in cm: 0.57 cm

Beam Spot Size in cm^2 : $\pi \times r^2$ $3.14 \times .57 \times .57 = 1.02 \text{ cm}^2$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{\text{Beam Spot Size in cm}^2}{\text{Power Output of Laser in Watts}}$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{1.02 \text{ cm}^2}{.500 \text{ W}}$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 = \underline{\underline{2.04 \text{ Seconds}}}$

How to Calculate Number of Seconds Required to Produce 1 J/cm^2 from a laser or LED

Formula: $1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{\text{Beam Spot Size in cm}^2}{\text{Power Output of Laser in Watts}} (\pi \times r^2)$

With a **5 mW** Laser Lecture Pointer, with a 1.14 cm diameter aperture:

Power Output, in Watts: 5 mW (milliwatts) = .005 W (Watts)

Beam Diameter, in cm: 1.14 cm Beam Radius, in cm: 0.57 cm

Beam Spot Size in cm^2 : $\pi \times r^2$ $3.14 \times .57 \times .57 = 1.02 \text{ cm}^2$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{\text{Beam Spot Size in cm}^2}{\text{Power Output of Laser in Watts}}$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 \text{ in seconds} = \frac{1.02 \text{ cm}^2}{.005 \text{ W}}$

$1 \text{ J/cm}^2 = \underline{204 \text{ Seconds}}$ (3 Min, 24 Sec)

Thus, **POWER IS IMPORTANT**

IN TERMS OF TIME NECESSARY TO PRODUCE 1 J/cm^2 ,

AND *TIME TO TREAT*:

With the *500 mW laser* (approximately 1 cm diameter aperture): $1 \text{ J/cm}^2 = 2.04 \text{ Seconds}$

With the *5 mW laser pointer* (approximately 1 cm diameter aperture): $1 \text{ J/cm}^2 = 3 \text{ Min, } 24 \text{ Sec}$

Sample Spec.'s for a Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Cluster head Device

FDA-Cleared, Non-significant risk, since 2003

Circular-shaped. Cluster-head diameter: 5.345 cm (2.1 inches)
Treatment Area ("Beam" spot size): 22.48 cm²

Single cluster head contained **61 diodes**:

9 red 633 nm diodes

52 near-infrared 870 nm diodes



Total optical output **Power**: 500 mW ($\pm 20\%$) CW

1 J/cm² = 45 sec

Power Density: 22.2 mW/cm² ($\pm 20\%$)

10 min per area; 13.3 J/cm² per area (0.4 J/cm² to brain cortex).

Estimate: 2-3% of NIR photons from extra-cranial placement will reach 1 cm deep, to reach surface brain cortex. (Wan, Parrish, et al., 1981; Tedford et al., 2015)

LED device used to improve cognition in chronic, mTBI (Naeser et al., 2011; 2014; 2016)

Review Terminology: Low-Level Laser, or LED parameters

Photons

- Elementary particles of light with properties of a wave and a particle

Wavelengths of Light Reported in nanometers (nm) billionth of a meter

Primarily work with Photons in Red (600's nm), and Near-infrared (NIR) (800's nm)

Red, 1 mm direct penetration; Near-infrared, 1-2 cm, or up to 4-5 cm

Joule

- Unit of Work Energy

Energy Density, Joules per cm² = J/cm² delivered to a spot or cm² area on a wound, or to a painful area, or to the scalp/brain, etc.

Beam Spot Size in cm² ($\pi \times r^2$). Calculated by the user.

Formula: 1 J/cm² in seconds = Beam Spot Size in cm² ($\pi \times r^2$)
Power Output of Laser in Watts

Power Density, Power per cm² = mW/cm² e.g., 22 mW/cm² or 150 to 300 mW/cm²

Provided by the Manufacturer of that specific laser or LED device.

Range is often 20 mW/cm² to 150 mW/cm² or more, with LED cluster heads.

Cellular Effects of Red/NIR Low-Level Lasers or LEDs.

Collagen and protein
Synthesis (Wound healing)

**Increased Adenosine
Triphosphate (ATP) synthesis**
Especially in
hypoxic/compromised cells

Promote Vasodilation
Blood and Lymphatic vessels

**Neurotransmitter release
(Serotonin)**

Increase in stem cell proliferation;
Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF);
Synapsin-1 synaptogenesis;
Neurogenesis (mice studies)

**Anti-oxidant and
Anti-inflammatory effects**

Table 1. Cellular Effects of Low-Energy Laser Irradiation (Basford, 1989)

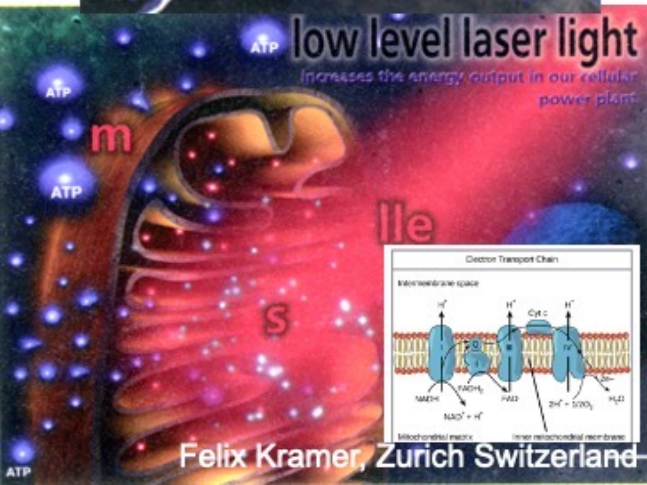
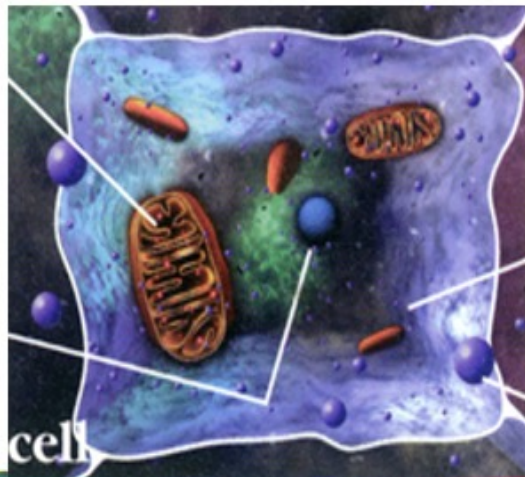
Phenomenon	Change and reported	Model	Laser
Collagen and protein synthesis Glassberg, Lask, Utto, 1968 Simunovic, Ivankovich, 1968 Barabas, Bakos, Szabo, et al, 1988 Mester, Toth, Mester, 1982 Lyons, Abergel, White, Dwyer, Castel, Utto, 1987 Hermann, Khosla, 1987	Increase & decrease	Human fibroblasts, rabbit skin, human synovium, bovine cartilage	HeNe HeNe + GaAs Nd:PO ₄ glass Nd:YAG
RNA synthesis Glassberg, Lask, Utto, 1968 Simunovic, Ivankovich, 1968 Barabas, Bakos, Szabo, et al, 1988 Mester, Toth, Mester, 1982 Lyons, Abergel, White, Dwyer, Castel, Utto, 1987 Herman, Khosla, 1987 Karu, 1987	Increase	Mouse skin	HeNe
Cell proliferation Hardy, Hardy, Fine, Sokal, 1967 Abergel, Dwyer, Meeker, Lask, Kelly, Utto, 1984	Increase & decrease	Mouse fibroblasts, human lymphocytes	Ruby HeNe GaAs
Cell granule release Trelles, Mayayo, Miro, Rigau, Baudin, 1988	Increase	Mouse mast cells	HeNe
Cell Motility Sato, Landthaler, Haina, Schill, 1984	Increase	Human sperm	Kr
Membrane potential Passarella, Casamassima, Molinari, Pastore, Quagliariello, Catalano, Cingolani, 1984 Passarella, 1988 Kubasova, Kovacs, Somosy, Unk, Kokai, 1984	Increase	Rat liver mitochondria, human fibroblasts	HeNe
Cell binding affinities Kubasova, Kovacs, Somosy, Unk, Kokai, 1984 Passarella, Casamassima, Quagliariello, Caretto, Jirillo, 1985	Increase	Human lymphocytes and fibroblasts	HeNe
Neurotransmitter release Vizi, Mester, Tizsa, Mester, 1977	Increase	Acetylcholine (guinea pigs)	Ruby
Oxyhemoglobin dissociation Itzkan, Tang, Bourgelais, 1988	Increase		
Phagocytosis Mester, Mester, Mester, 1985	Increase	Human leukocytes	Ruby
ATP syntheses Passarella, Casamassima, Molinari, Pastore, Quagliariello, Catalano, Cingolani, 1984 Passarella, 1988	Increase	Rat liver mitochondria	HeNe
Intercellular matrix Yew, Wong, Chang, 1982	Increase	Mouse retina	HeNe
Prostaglandin synthesis Mester, Toth, Mester, 1982	Increase	Rat skin	HeNe

Rationale for Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT) and Light-emitting Diode (LED) Therapy:

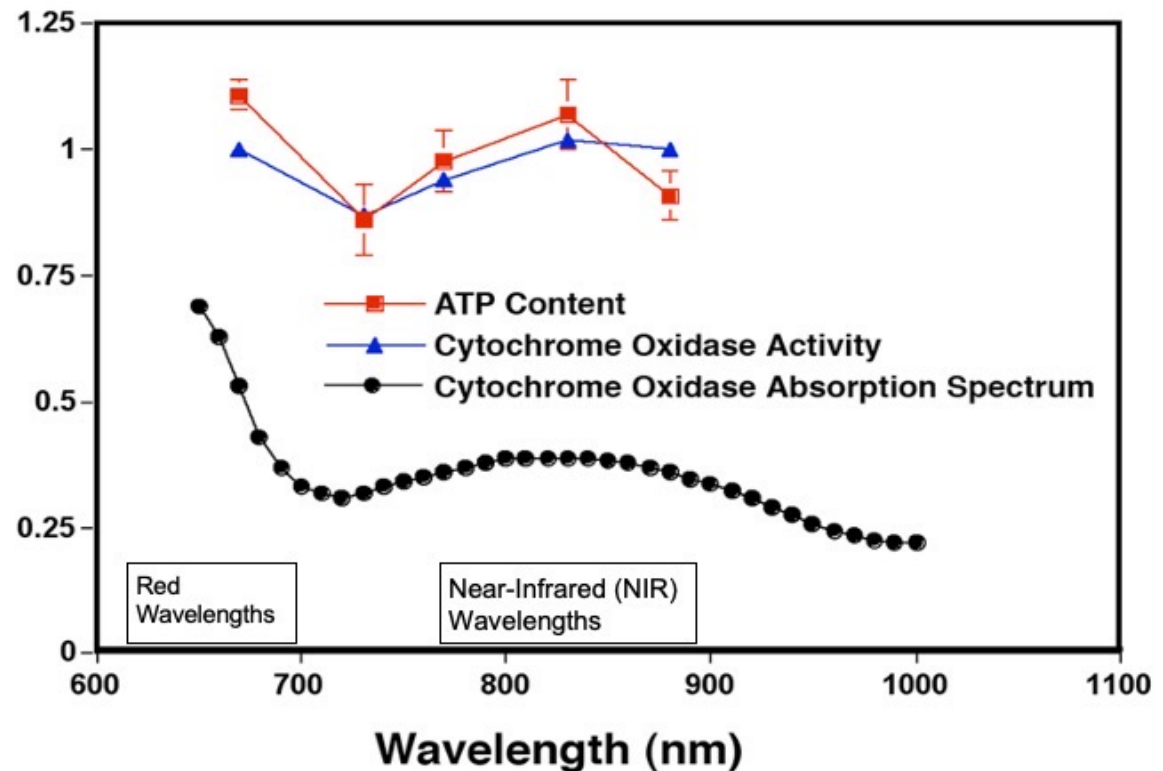
Cytochrome c oxidase, in last complex of the electron transport chain in **mitochondria** maximally absorbs light in wavelengths of **red and near-infrared (NIR)**.

This will **increase ATP production** (and improve cellular respiration and oxygenation).

(Karu, 1995; 2005)



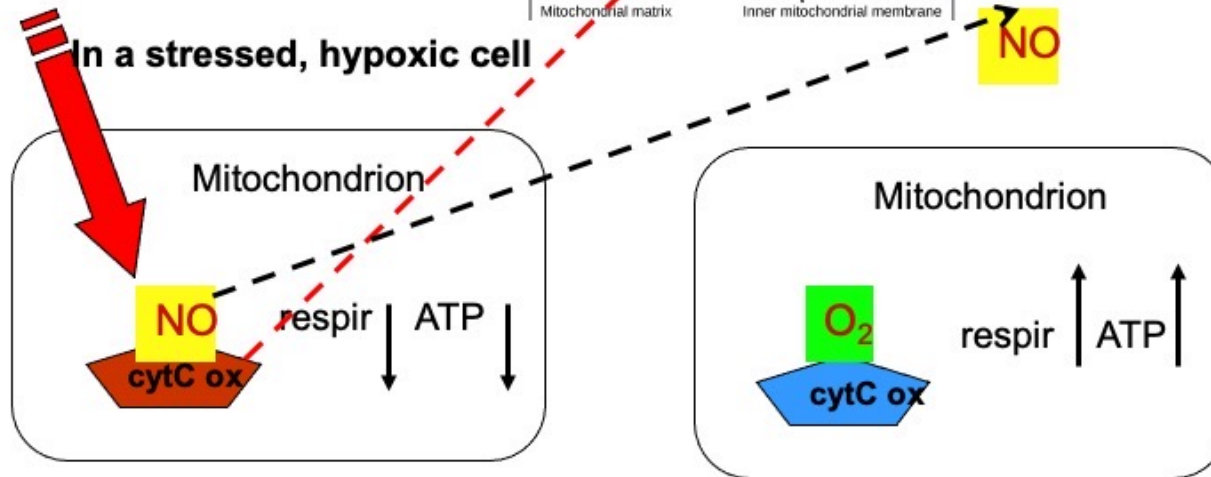
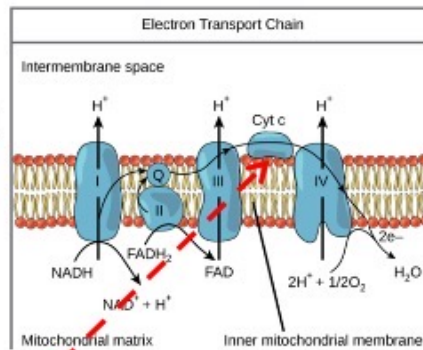
Relative Absorbance, Content, or Activity



(Wong-Riley et al., 2005)

Hypothesis for Hypoxic/compromised cells

Red or NIR light



Hypothesis regarding effect of red or near-infrared (NIR) light on the **primary photo-acceptor, Cytochrome C Oxidase (cytC ox)**, dotted red line in this diagram, located in the mitochondrial membrane. Before red/NIR LLLT/LED application, the **CytC ox appears "saturated" with nitric oxide (NO)**, yellow box. After application of red/NIR photons, the **mitochondria will increase ATP production** and improve cell respiration.

The **NO is pushed outside the cell wall, dotted black line; this will promote local vasodilation.**

M. Hamblin, R. Anderson, Wellman
Center for Photomedicine, MGH

Explains why:

Normal cells and tissue generally do not respond

Hypoxic cells, damaged cells, and tissue at risk of death respond well

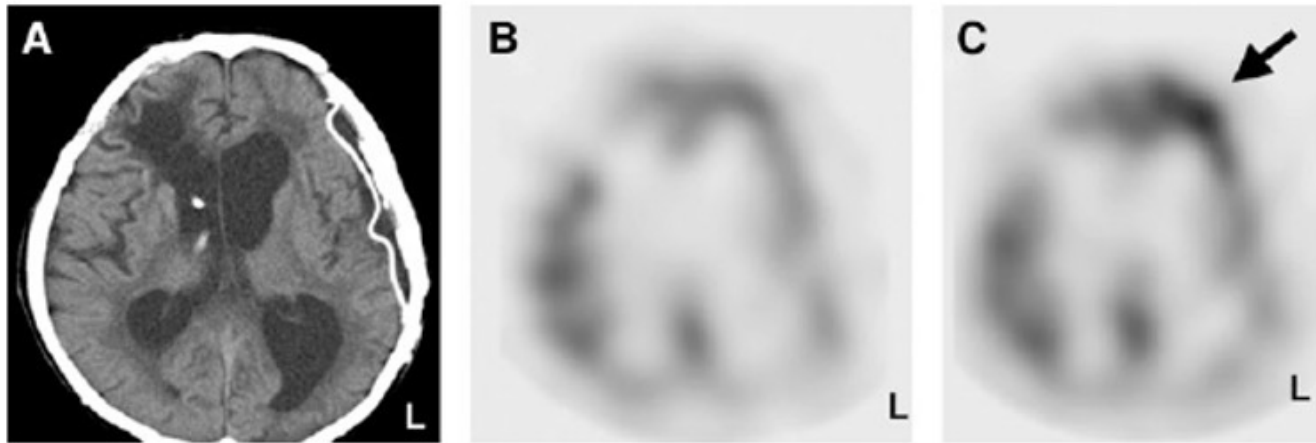
Effects continue for long time after light is switched off

Released nitric oxide temporarily **increases blood flow in illuminated area**

Released nitric oxide **reduces swelling by dilating lymphatic vessels and increasing drainage**

(Hamblin et al., 2005; Ayuk et al., 2018)

Promotion of Vasodilation after series of LED treatments:
Transcranial LED to treat Severe TBI,
Persistent Vegetative State



A) Computed Tomography (CT) scan for persistent vegetative state case, at 7 Mo. post-severe TBI.

B) Single-photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) scan also at 7 Mo.; ***pre- transcranial LED (tLED) therapy.***

C) SPECT scan at 30min after last tLED treatment, after 3 Mo. of LED therapy, showing ***focal increase of 20%*** (vs. pre-LED) for ***Regional cerebral blood flow (rCBF)*** in the left anterior frontal cortex (black arrow).

Mitochondria travel along the axons.

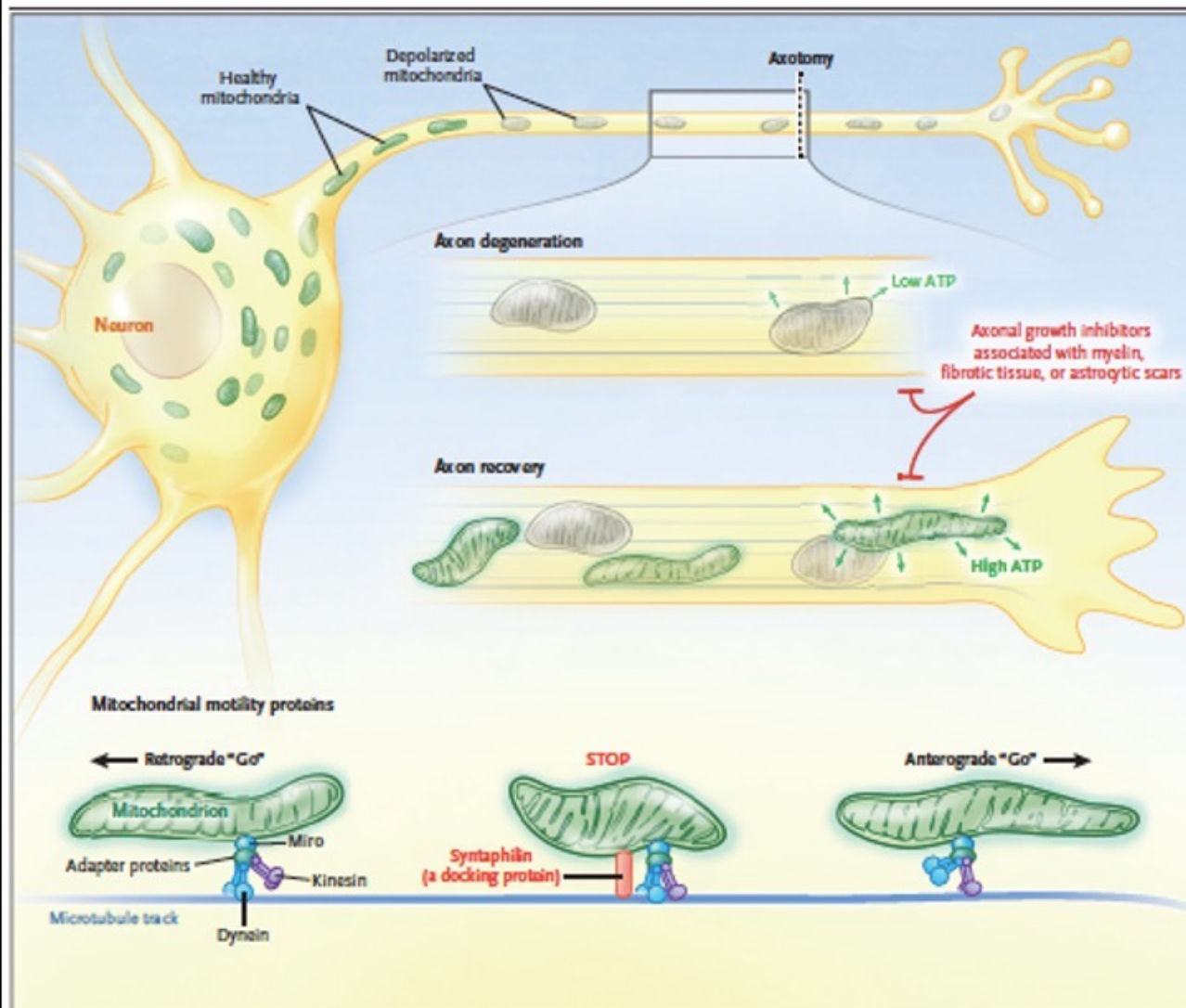
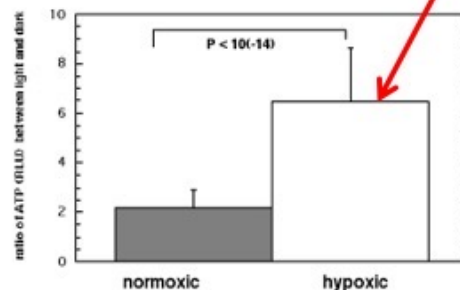
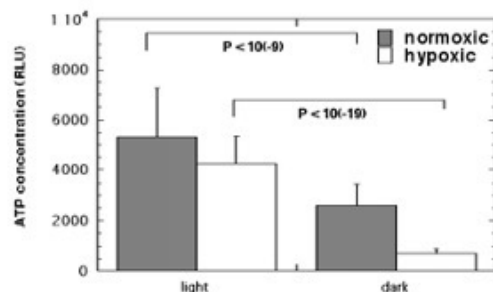


Figure 1. Mitochondrial Motility and Axon Recovery.

Mitochondria that are close to the site of axonal injury (axotomy) lose their membrane potential and do not produce ATP. In a recent study, Zhou et al.³ found that the loss of the docking protein syntaphilin increases mitochondrial motility and is associated with the recruitment of healthy mitochondria with high membrane potential (shown in green) into the injured area, thereby enhancing the local energy supply and supporting axon recovery. Mitochondrial transport is driven by molecular motor proteins: dynein proteins, which are responsible for retrograde movement, and kinesin proteins, which are responsible for anterograde movement. Adapter proteins link these motor proteins to Miro proteins in the mitochondrial membrane. Docking proteins, such as syntaphilin, can immobilize mitochondria on microtubules.

There will be **greater increase in ATP for Hypoxic Cells**, than Normoxic Cells
after exposure to red or near-infrared photons

Low-Level Laser Therapy (LLLT), 1.4 J/cm² of 810 nm IR light delivered at 10 mW/cm² has bigger effect in increasing ATP in hypoxic cells (1 hour under N₂)



Near-infrared (NIR) photons promote **a greater increase of ATP in hypoxic cells (6x increase)**, than in normoxic cells (2x increase). Mean luminescence values (+/- SD) from 12 wells of HeLa cells (a human cervical cancer cell line used to demonstrate LLLT effects) treated or not, with 1.4 J/cm² of NIR 810 nm light in either normoxic conditions (regular atmosphere) or hypoxic conditions (1 hour exposure to pure nitrogen after 3 cycles of vacuum).

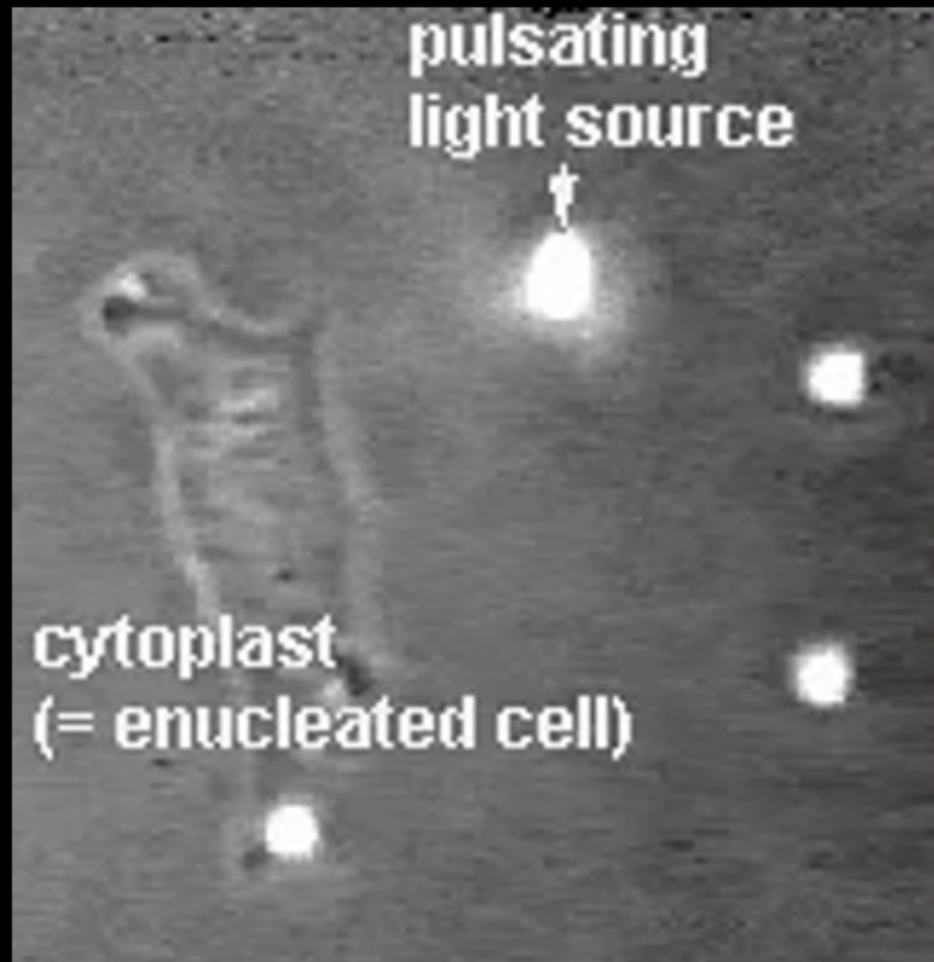
M. Hamblin, PhD, Consultant on VA LED projects; from the Wellman Center for Photomedicine, MGH

Video of mouse fibroblast cell, seeking out a pulsating, near-infrared, laser light.
Note, *the cell maneuvers around an obstacle*, to get to the laser light.
Source: Guenter Albrecht-Buehler, Ph.D., Physicist
Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago



Video of mouse fibroblast cell, seeking out a pulsating, near-infrared, laser light. *The nucleus has been removed from this cell (an enucleated cell), yet the remainder of the cell still seeks out the light - the mitochondria are outside the nucleus.*

**Source: Guenter Albrecht-Buehler, Ph.D., Physicist
Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago**



Anti-inflammatory effects of Low-level Laser Therapy (LLLT)

(Hamblin, 2017)

Reports (Castano et al., 2007) demonstrate that ***LLLT reduces cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2)*** expression levels and ***reduces prostaglandins*** in multiple animal models as well as in vitro (Aimbire et al., 2005; Albertini et al., 2007; Sakurai et al., 2000).

A key inflammatory mediator that has been implicated in pathogenesis of TBI is the cytokine tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF α).

There are multiple reports showing that ***LLLT reduces TNF α levels in arthritis*** (Aimbire et al., 2006) and other animal models of inflammation.

Low-level laser light therapy ***inhibited microglial activation, in acute, severe TBI,*** after controlled cortical impact in mice (60 Joules/cm² with open craniotomy).

(Khuman et al., 2012)

Additional effects of Low-level Laser Therapy (LLLT)

Anti-oxidant Effects

After exposure to red or near-infrared, laser or LED, there will be a *brief burst of reactive oxygen species (ROS)*.

This will induce redox-sensitive transcription factors,
such as *nuclear factor-kappa B*,
that *promote gene transcription*.

The *mitochondrial superoxide dismutase* (anti-oxidant effect)
is one of the most upregulated genes
after NF-kB activation (Sompol et al., 2006).

Another highly upregulated gene after NF-kB activation and after LED/LLLT,
is *heat-shock protein 70*,
a molecular chaperone for protein molecules that
prevents mis-folding and unwanted protein aggregation in telomeres

(Zhang et al., 1994).

FULL ARTICLE

Low-level laser therapy for traumatic brain injury in mice increases brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) and synaptogenesis

Weijun Xuan^{†,1,2,3}, Tanupriya Agrawal^{†,2,3}, Liyi Huang^{2,3,4}, Gaurav K. Gupta^{2,3,5}, and Michael R. Hamblin^{*,2,3,6}

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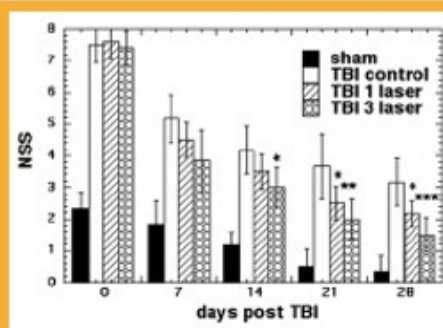
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Published online 5 September 2014

Key words: traumatic brain injury, transcranial low level light therapy, synaptogenesis, neurogenesis, BDNF, Synapsin-1

Transcranial low-level laser (light) therapy (LLLT) is a new non-invasive approach to treating a range of brain disorders including traumatic brain injury (TBI). We (and others) have shown that applying near-infrared light to the head of animals that have suffered TBI produces improvement in neurological functioning, lessens the size of the brain lesion, reduces neuroinflammation, and stimulates the formation of new neurons. In the present study we used a controlled cortical impact TBI in mice and treated the mice either once (4 h post-TBI, 1-laser), or three daily applications (3-laser) with 810 nm CW laser 36 J/cm² at 50 mW/cm². Similar to previous studies, the neurological severity score improved in laser-treated mice compared to untreated TBI mice at day 14 and continued to further improve at days 21 and 28 with 3-laser being better than 1-laser. Mice were sacrificed at days 7 and 28 and brains removed for immunofluorescence analysis. Brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) was significantly up-regulated by laser treatment in the dentate gyrus of the hippocampus (DG) and the subventricular zone (SVZ) but not in the perilesional cortex (lesion) at day 7 but not at day 28. Synapsin-1 (a marker for synaptogenesis, the formation of new connections between existing neurons) was significantly upregulated in lesion and SVZ, but not DG, at 28 days but not 7 days. The data suggest that the



Neurological Severity Score (NSS) for TBI mice

benefit of LLLT to the brain is partly mediated by stimulation of BDNF production, which may in turn encourage synaptogenesis. Moreover the pleiotropic benefits of BDNF in the brain suggest LLLT may have wider applications to neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders.

Apply **810 nm laser** to head of Mice after **Acute TBI** (Controlled Cortical Impact TBI)

36 J/cm² Delivered Energy Density
50 mW/cm² The Power Density

Apply laser at **4 hours post- TBI**

Apply laser, **1x per day, for 3 days.**

At **Day 7**, increase in **BDNF** in Dentate Gyrus, of Hippocampus And Subventricular Zone

BDNF promotes Neurogenesis

At **Day 28**, increase in Synapsin-1 in Perilesional area And Subventricular zone.

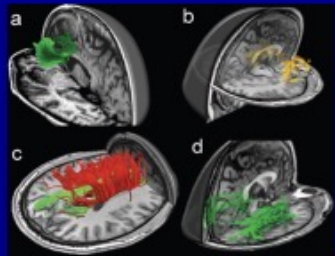
Synaptogenesis was also promoted.

At Day 28, Improved Behavior.

(Xuan et al., 2014)

Part 2. Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

- Each year, 1.7 million patients evaluated for traumatic brain injury (TBI), including **3 TBIs every minute in U.S.**
- Annual cost between \$60-\$76.5 billion
- **Closed-head, mild TBI, most common (75%)** Loss of Consciousness, <30 Min
- **20-30% of these, have persistent cognitive dysfunction** (CDC, 2013)
- With closed-head TBI, **diffuse axonal injury (DAI)** results, when shearing, stretching, and/or angular forces pull on axons and small vessels.



Normal structural CT scan or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).

(Taber et al, 2006; Medana et al, 2003)

- **Closed-head TBI from blast injury is the major injury of Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.**

(Hoge, McGurk, Thomas et al., 2008)

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

often results in Cognitive Dysfunction

- Chronic, mild TBI is associated with *persistent* post-concussive symptoms, and **problems with**:
 - **attention**
 - **cognitive manipulation** of temporal information
 - **processing speed**
 - **working memory**, i.e., the ability to hold information in mind, and to manipulate it in light of incoming material.
- These “**executive functions**” are sensitive to **damage in frontal lobes** - orbital, medial (**ant. cingulate gyrus**), and dorsolateral, **prefrontal cortex**.

Significant Improvements in Cognitive Performance Post-Transcranial, Red/Near-Infrared Light-Emitting Diode Treatments in Chronic, Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Open-Protocol Study

Also, observed **Reduced PTSD**, and **Improved Sleep**

Margaret A. Naeser,^{1,2} Ross Zafonte,^{3,4} Maxine H. Krengel,^{1,2} Paula I. Martin,^{1,2} Judith Frazier,³
Michael R. Hamblin,⁵ Jeffrey A. Knight,⁶ William P. Meehan III,⁷ and Errol H. Baker¹

Participants: 11 chronic, mild TBI cases (26-62 Yr, 6M) persistent cognitive dysfunction, >6 Months

LED Treatment **started at 10 months to 8 years post-mTBI**
(MVA, Sports-related-Skiing, Skateboarding, IED blast TBI)

6 / 11 were >2 years post- TBI

Participants had one or **more closed-head TBI** with LOC ranging 0-30 min.

4 / 11, multiple TBIs

Single cluster head contained **61 diodes**:

9 red 633 nm diodes (1 mW, each diode)

52 near-infrared 870 nm diodes (12-15 mW, each diode)

Total optical output Power: 500 mW ($\pm 20\%$) CW

1 J/cm² = 45 sec

Power Density: 22.2 mW/cm² ($\pm 20\%$)

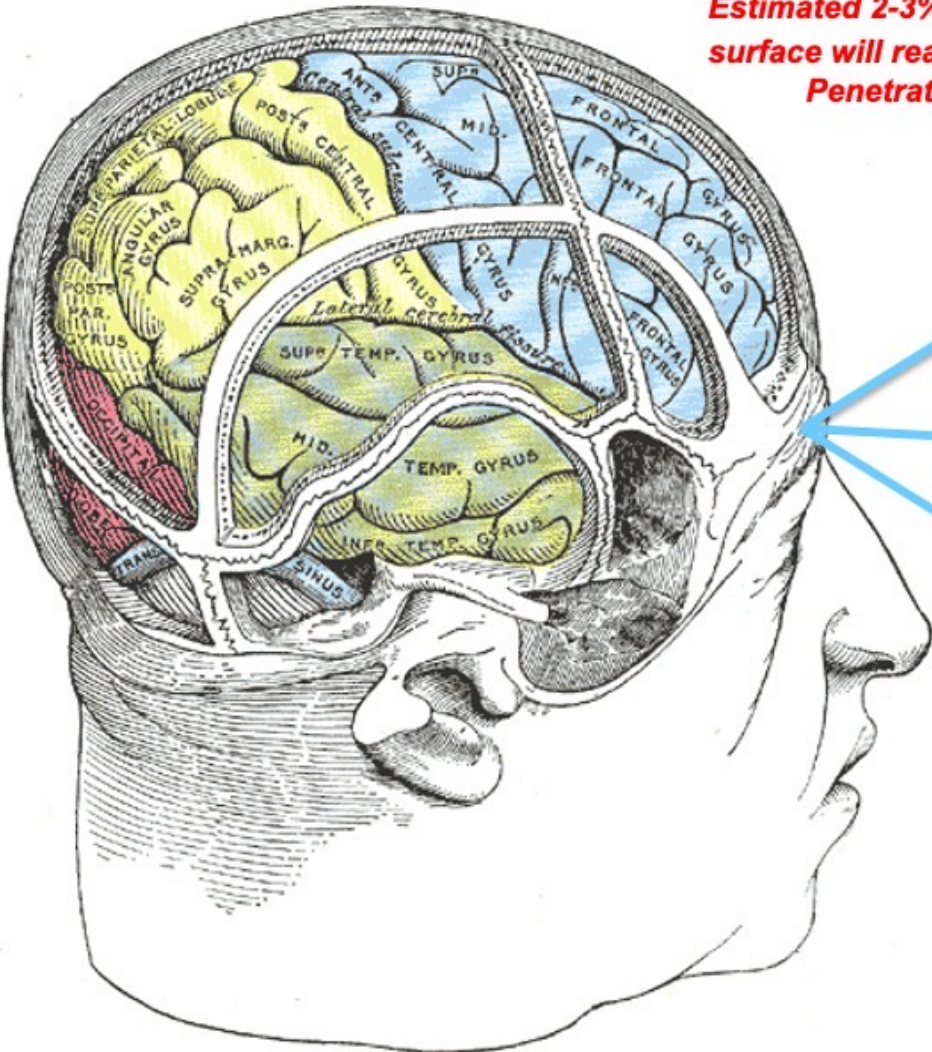
10 min per area; 13.3 J/cm² per area (0.4 J/cm² to brain cortex)



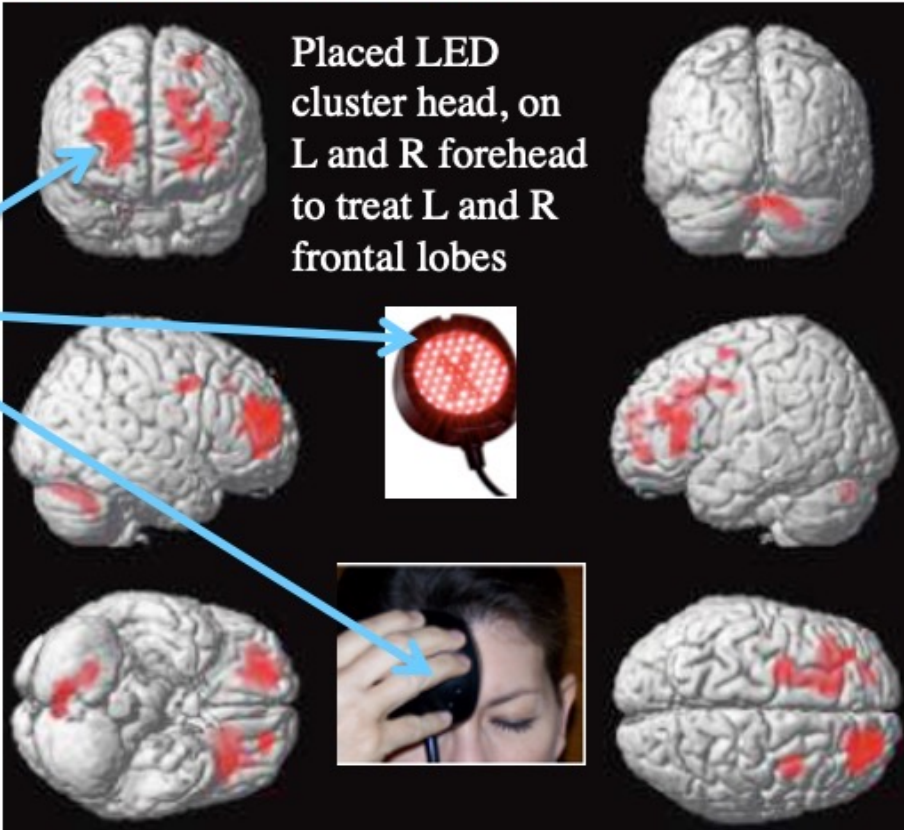
Bilateral LED Placement Loci: 11 LED head placement loci. Left Side, Right Side, and Midline placements.

Each treated for 10 min, each. 13.3 J/cm² at skin surface,
Estimated 0.4 J/cm² at 1cm deep, surface brain cortex.
Each 2-inch diameter, LED cluster head, 500 mW (± 20%).

Estimated 2-3% of near-infrared, energy penetration from skin/scalp surface will reach 1 cm deep, to surface brain cortex. Wan, et al., 1981;
Penetrate 4-5 cm, human cadaver scalp/brain. Tedford, et al., 2015.

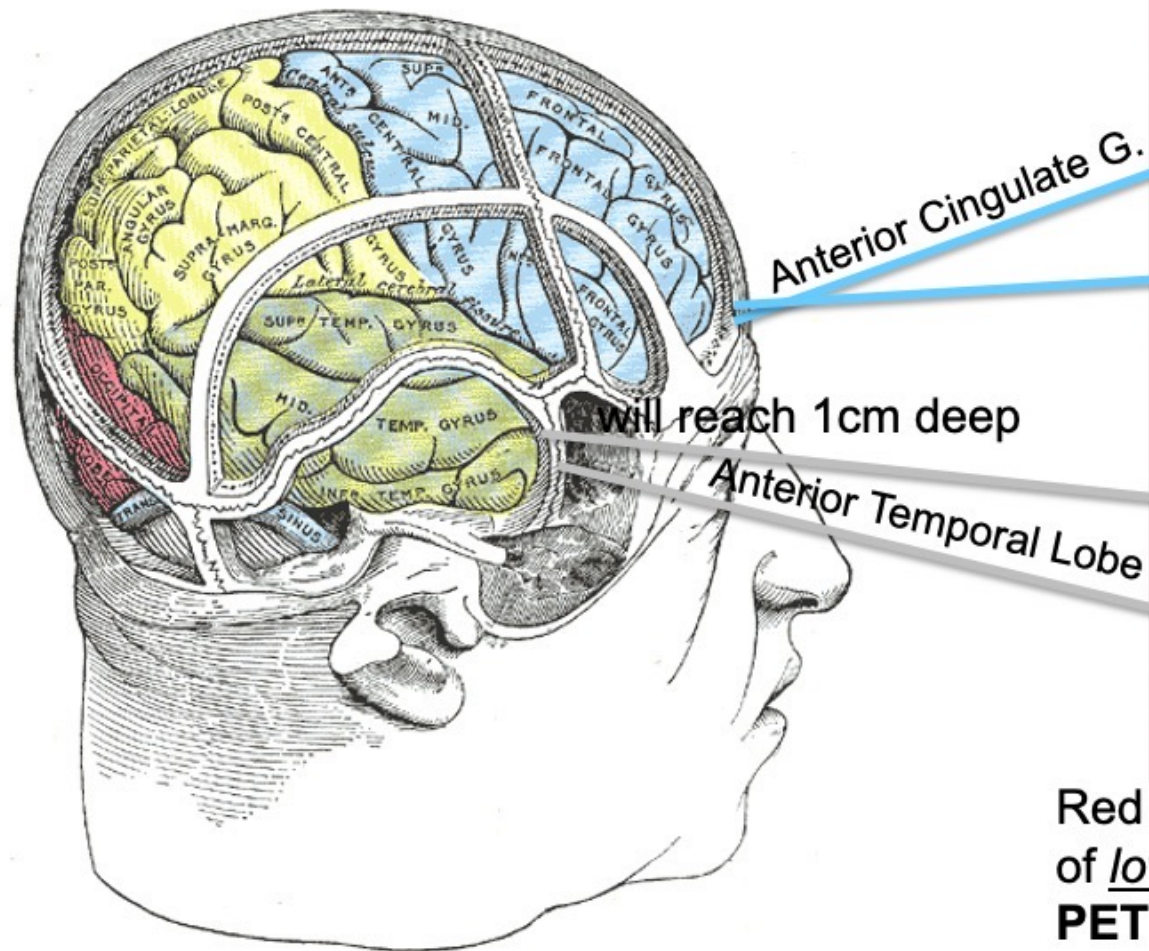


**Location of Gyral Areas of Brain Cortex,
in Relationship to Bone Suture Lines of Skull.**
(Gray1197.png)

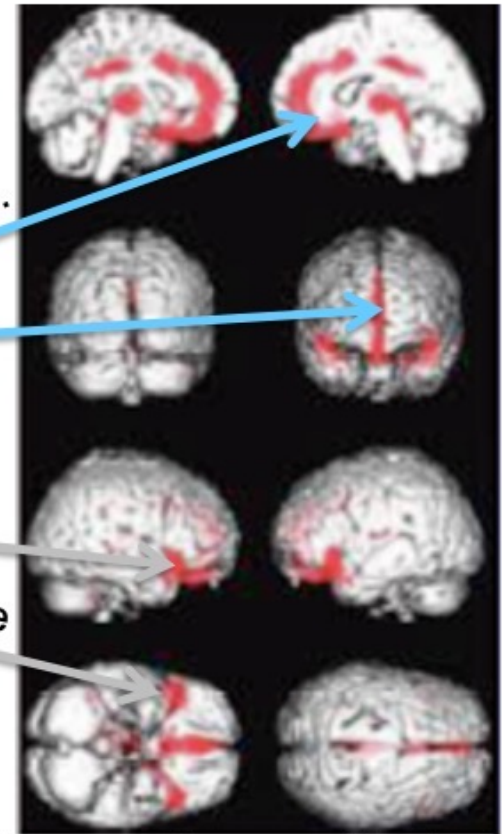


Red areas show low cortical activation on functional MRI in chronic, traumatic brain injury cases [post- motor vehicle accidents (MVA)] with “cognitive dysfunction.”

In TBI, the **ventral, mesial surface of the frontal lobes** (**Anterior Cingulate G.**, and mesial, inferior, prefrontal cortex) are areas with low glucose metabolism in chronic, TBI. This is a target area, with the LED cluster head that is placed at the **midline, center front hairline**.



**Location of Gyral Areas of Brain Cortex,
in Relationship to Bone Suture Lines of Skull.**
(Gray1197.png)



Red areas show cortical areas of low glucose metabolism on **PET scans** in chronic, TBI cases (post- MVA) with cognitive dysfunction. (Kato et al., 2007; Naeser, 2011)

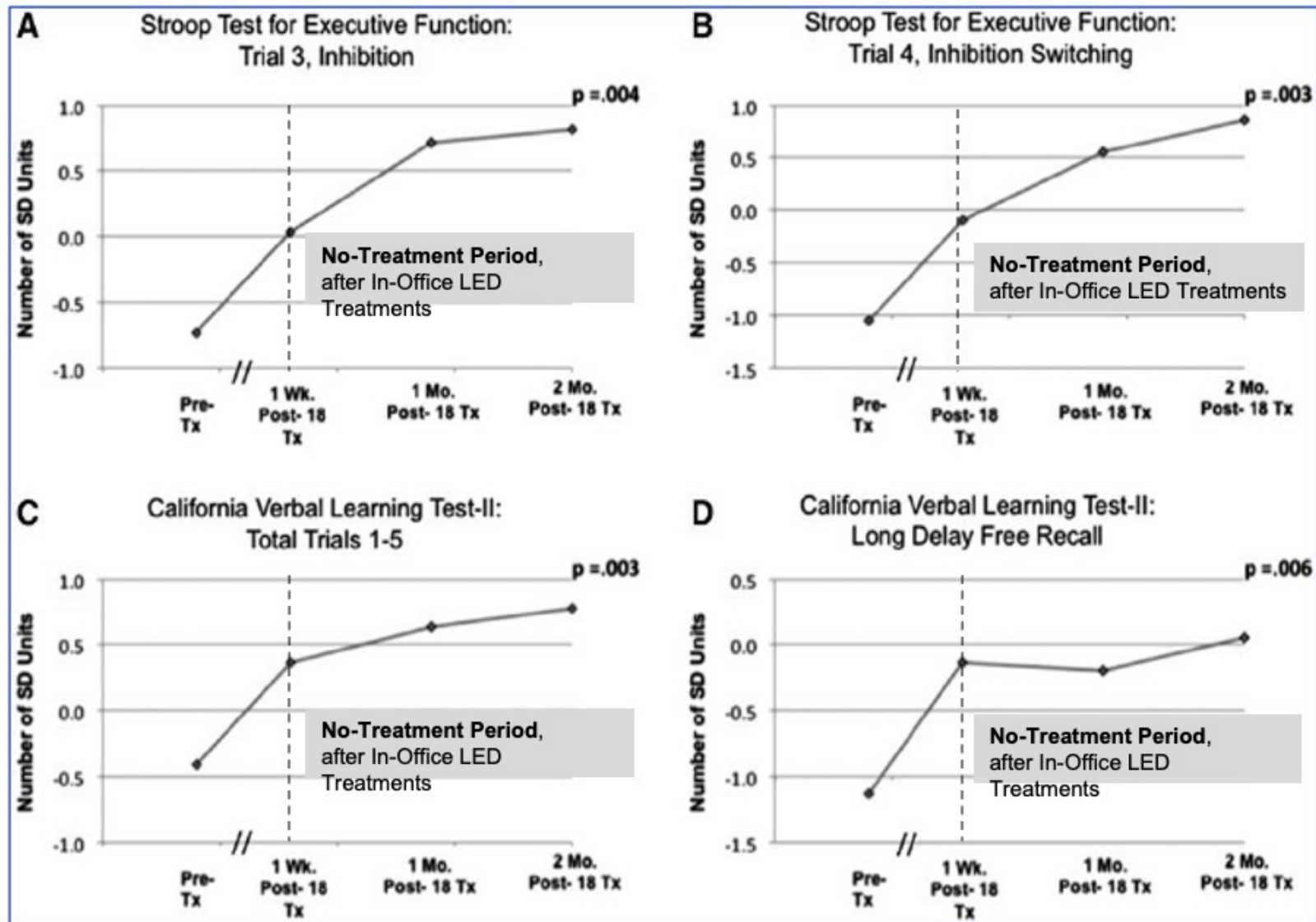
Spaulding Rehab. Hosp., Boston. **Transcranial LED to Treat mTBI:** **Neuropsychological, Cognitive Test Results**

Results

11 mTBI
Cases
**Most, MVAs,
1 Blast-TBI**

Treated
In-Office
With
Transcranial
LED
Cluster
Heads.

MedX
Health,
Red/NIR.



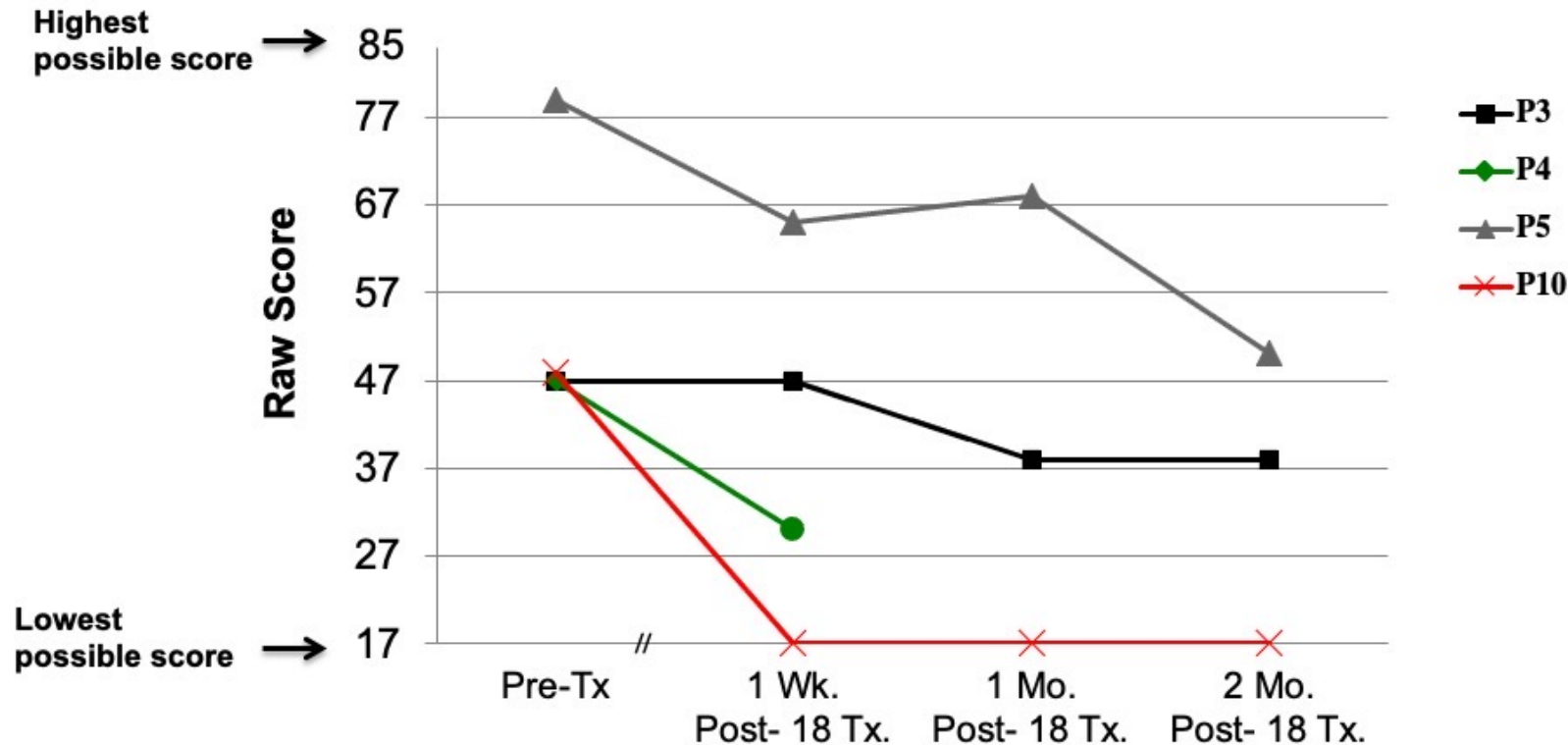
Note: These mTBI cases continued to improve in Executive Function and Verbal Memory, at 2 months after the final, 18th In-Office, transcranial LED treatment.

Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Boston. Transcranial LED Treatment (Tx)

mTBI Study: Pre- and Post- LED Tx. Data

PTSD Checklist, PCL-Civilian

4 / 11 mTBI cases also had PTSD



Score >36 suggestive of PTSD based on case referral from specialized clinic (TBI or Pain) or VA Primary Care

Reliable decrease = 5-10 points

Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points

- ◆ **Patients and family reported** clear **improvement in** capacities to perform **social, interpersonal and occupational functions**.

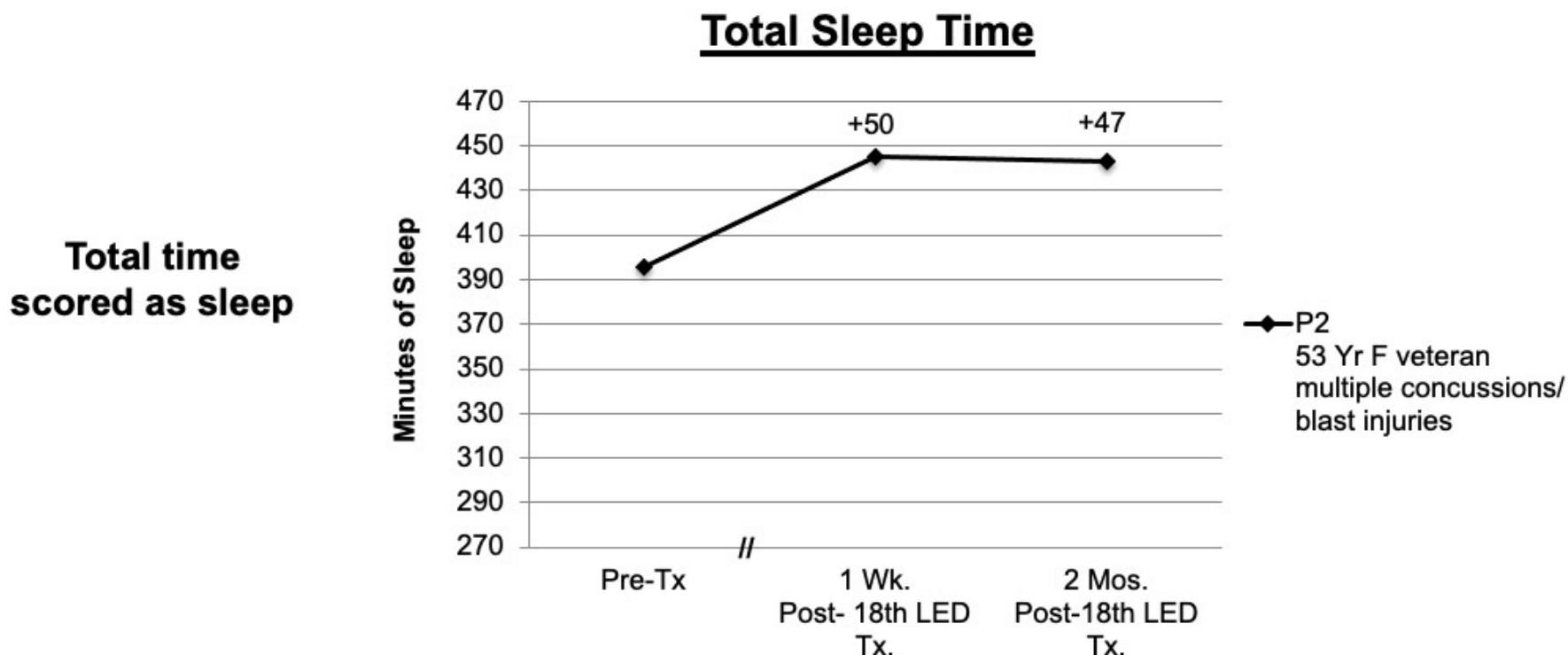
Some comments Post- LED:

- ◆ P001 - **Able to sort bills, write checks, read essays**, tasks previously unable to do for 5 years, since the TBI.
- ◆ P004 - **Headache pain was reduced** from VAS of 5, down to 2; and he no longer requires Extra Strength Tylenol or Tylenol, for HA pain. He continues to work as PhD Clinical Psychologist, resumed full-time work, instead of only part-time.
- ◆ P005 - Was depressed, and **non-talkative at entry**, but **became** quite **verbal** and **talkative** after a few weeks of LED treatments.
- ◆ P006 - **PTSD** Checklist-Civilian **was Severe** (score of 47) at entry, and **improved to Mild** (score of 30) at 1 Week post- the 18th LED treatment.
- ◆ P019 - Had been having recurrent nightmares for 20 mo. (TBI caused when he was sucked into a blast furnace). Post- 3 weeks of transcranial LED treatments, the **nightmares stopped**.

Actigraphy Sleep Data

P2, 53 Yr F (Veteran) mTBI+PTSD

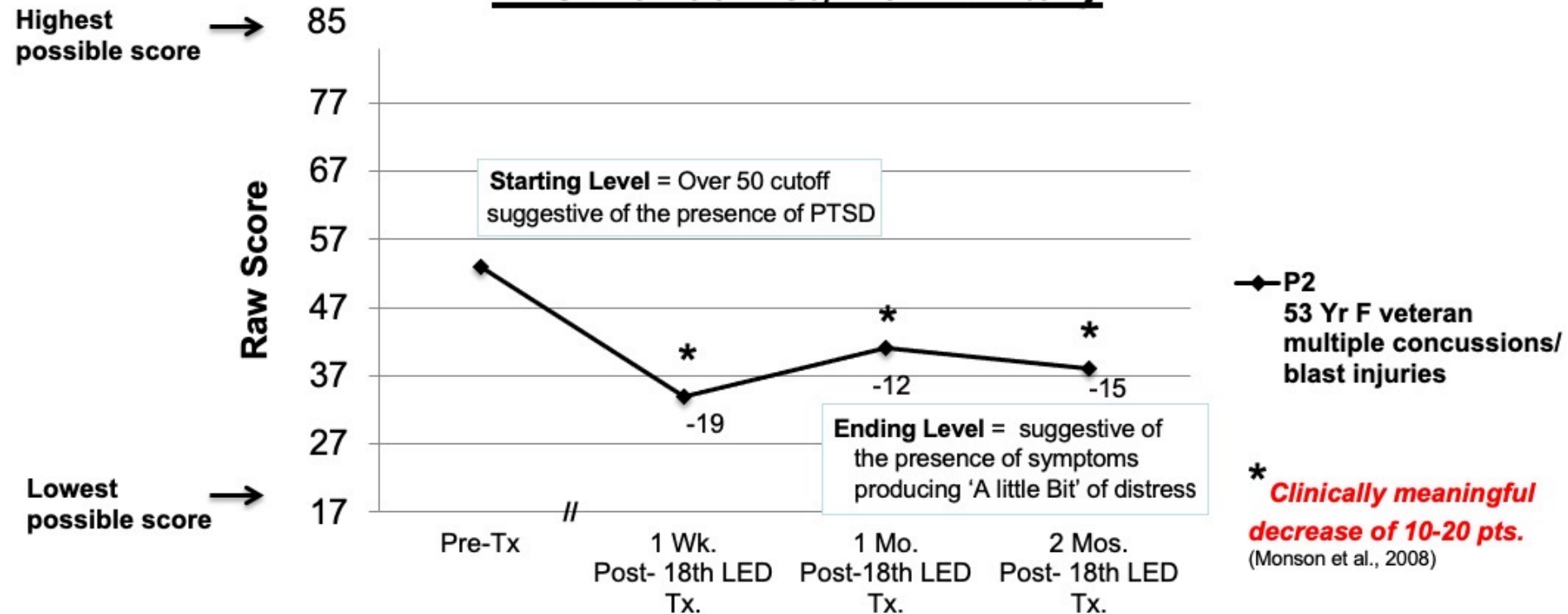
Enter Study at 2.5 Yrs. Post- Multiple Concussions and **IED Blast Injuries (30 - 50)**
Pre- and Post- 18 Transcranial LED Treatments



P2, 53 Yr F (Veteran) mTBI+PTSD

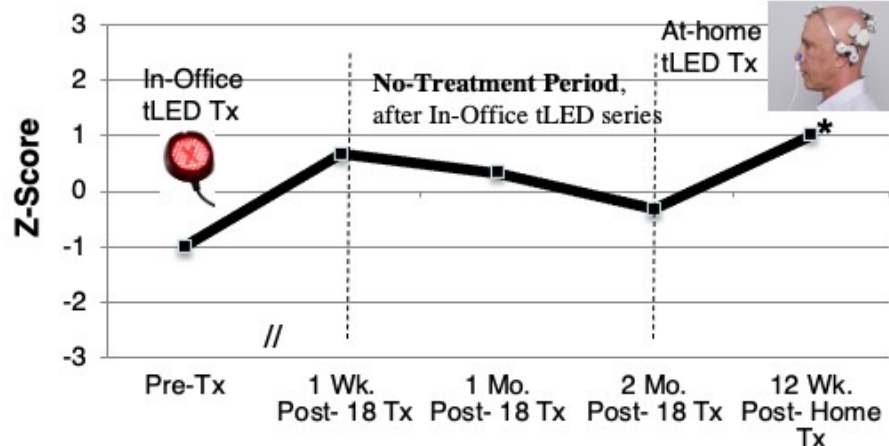
→ Enter Study at 2.5 Yrs. Post- Multiple Concussions, **IED Blast Injuries (30 - 50)**
Pre- and Post- 18 Transcranial LED Treatments

PTSD Checklist, PCL-Military



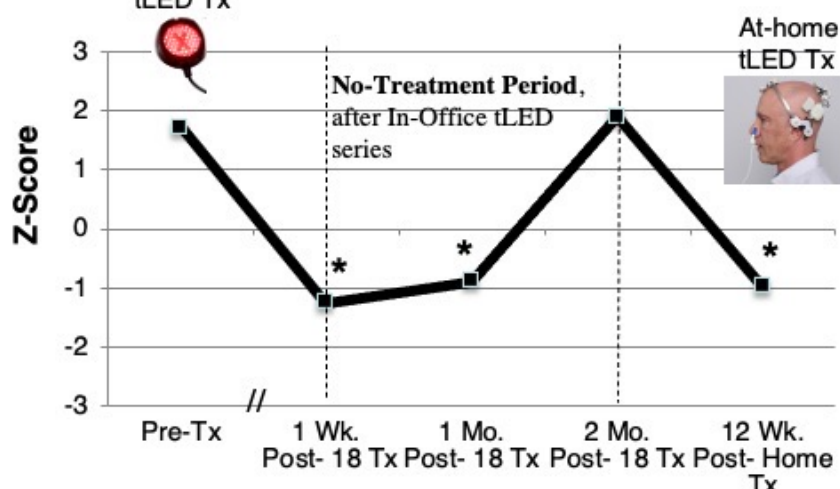
a. **Color Word Interference Test (Stroop)**
Executive Function

Trial 3, Inhibition



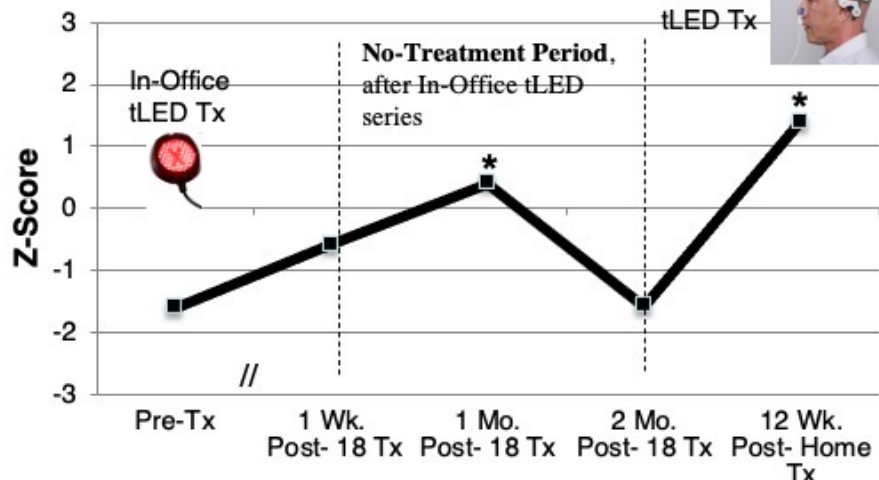
b. **Continuous Performance Test (CPT)**

False Alarm Rate



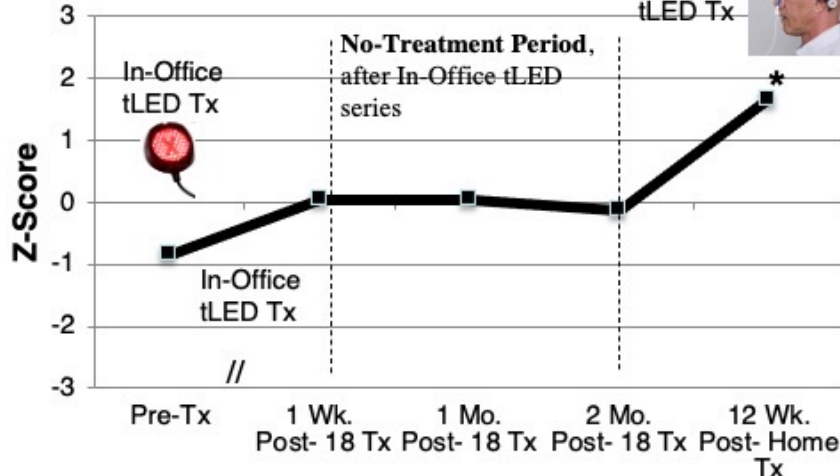
c. **Brief Visuospatial Memory Test (BVMT)**

Immediate Recall

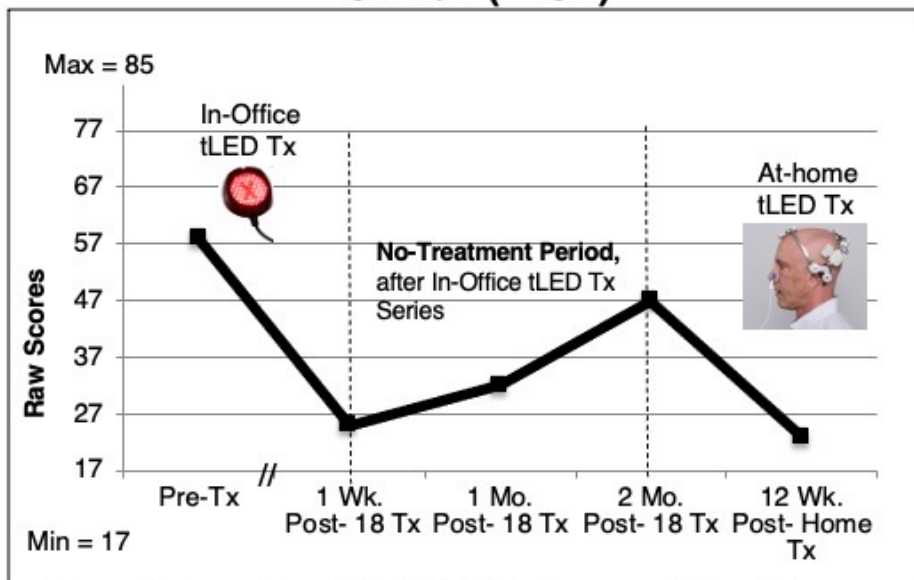


d. **Brief Visuospatial Memory Test (BVMT)**

Total Recall

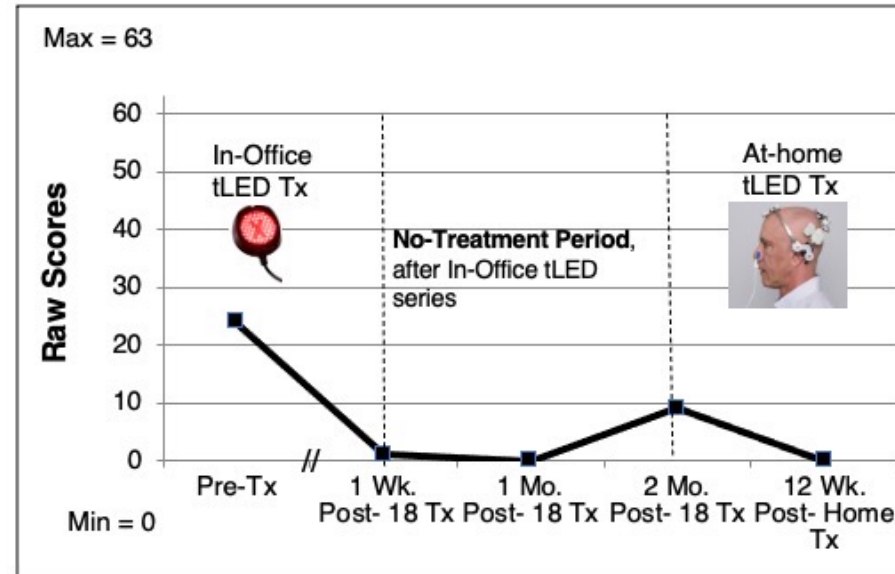


a. **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
 Civilian (PTSD)**



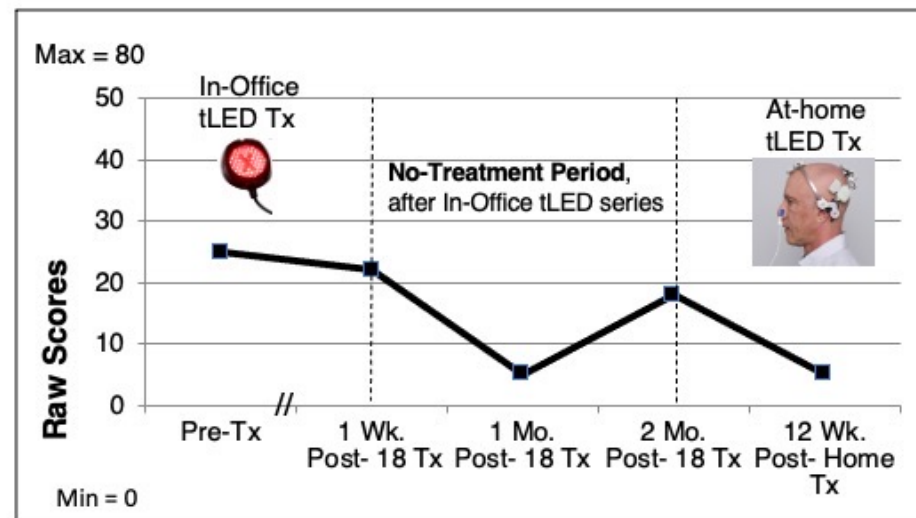
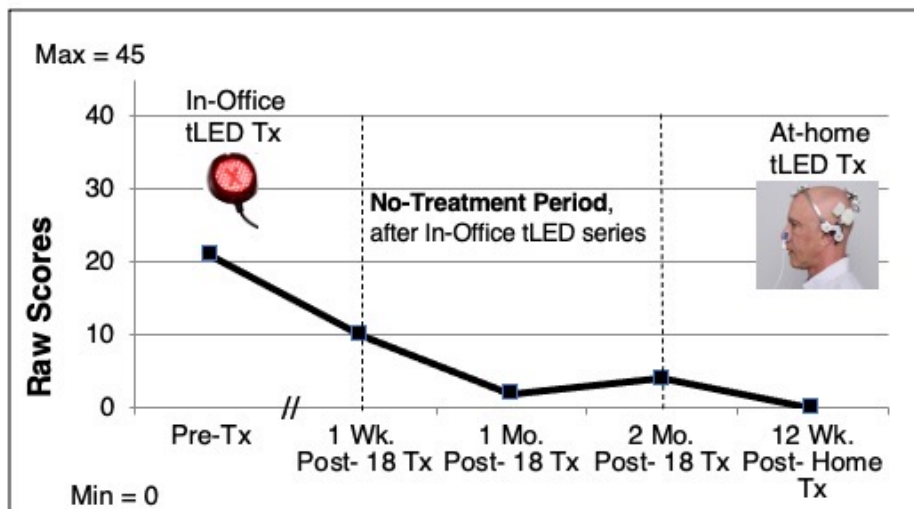
Score >36 suggestive of PTSD; Reliable decrease = 5-10 points
 Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points (Monson et al., 2008)

b. **Beck Depression Inventory – II (BDI)**



d. **Dysexecutive Questionnaire**

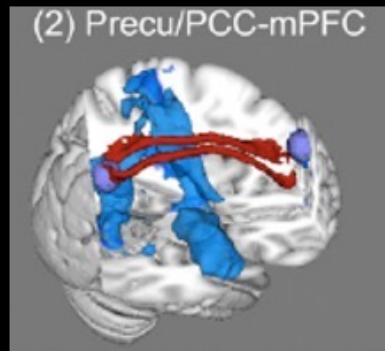
Interference with Family and Community Activities



**Case: Athlete, tackle football
14 Yrs, *possibly developing*
CTE, age 65.**

**At 3 Mo. after In-Office
Treatment Series – started
At-Home Transcranial LED
Treatments.**

**Neuro Gamma LED Device
plus Intranasal LED
Blast-TBI Veterans also develop
CTE**



Default Mode Network



Not
necessary
to shave
the head.

LED device designed to deliver 810 nm, near-infrared photons ***only*** over the 5 cortical node areas of the **Default Mode Network (DMN)**. LEDs are **pulsed at 40 Hz.**

DMN is dysregulated in TBI, PTSD, Depression, Chronic Pain, Opioid Addiction, Alzheimer's Disease, Aging, Autism, Down Syndrome, and other central nervous system (CNS) disorders.

(Bonnelle et al., 2011, 2012; Menon, 2011; Garland et al., 2013; Fox et al., 2014; Jung et al., 2014)

Neural synchronization in Alzheimer's disease

Liviu Aron & Bruce A. Yankner

Electrical oscillations generated by neural circuits are disrupted in Alzheimer's disease. Restoring these oscillations in mouse models activates immune cells to clear disease-associated amyloid- β protein from the brain. [SEE ARTICLE P.230](#)

At-home
tLED Tx

**The Neuro Gamma
LED Device
is Pulsed at 40 Hz.**



Iaccarino et al., 2016, *Nature*. Study done at MIT

Mice were genetically manipulated to develop **Alzheimer's Disease**.

40Hz, blinking light was shown only to eyes of mice, 1 Hr. per Day 7 Days

Post-mortem, showed **60% reduction in Amyloid-beta**, and **40% reduction in tau**, in **Visual Cortex only**. 40Hz signal was delivered **via the eyes/optic nerve**.

No reduction of Amyloid-beta or tau, in other areas – Hippocampus, etc.

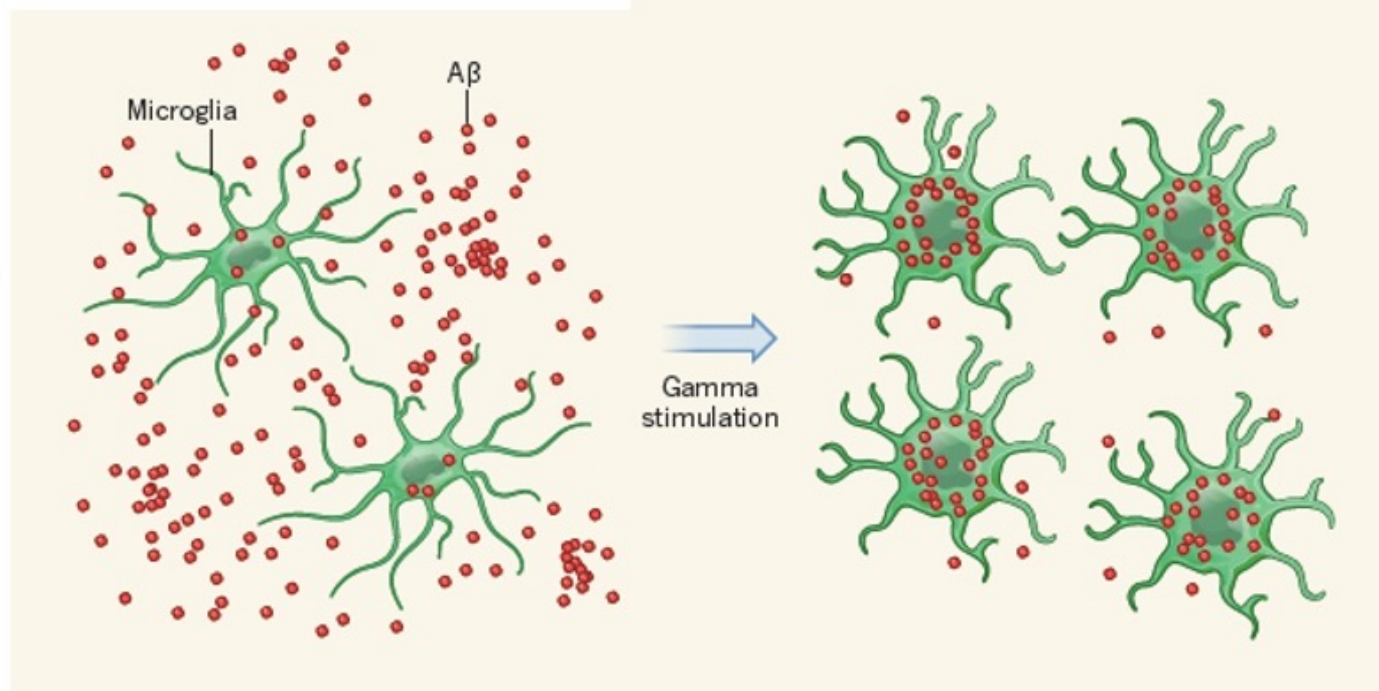


Figure 1 | Gamma oscillations stimulate the clearance of amyloid- β protein deposits. Abnormal aggregation of amyloid- β ($A\beta$) protein in the brain is associated with Alzheimer's disease. $A\beta$ aggregates might accumulate and promote neurodegeneration in part because immune cells called microglia cannot effectively clear the protein. In addition, synchronized patterns of electrical activity in the brain known as gamma oscillations are disrupted in Alzheimer's. Iaccarino *et al.*³ restored gamma oscillations in a mouse model of the disease. Such gamma stimulation led to recruitment of microglia to sites of $A\beta$ deposition. The microglia adopted an activated shape, and consequently engulfed and degraded $A\beta$.

Intranasal, **red**, light-emitting diode (LED) Device.

Wavelength: 633 nm

Power output: 8 mW Used in one nostril, **25 min. Self-timed.** One AA battery.

Beam spot size, delivered to nasal mucosa: 1 cm²

Energy delivery to nasal mucosa in 25 minutes: **12 J/cm²**

Power density: 8 mW/cm²

Can be used at home. Red wavelengths **increase melatonin** (Zhao et al., 2012; Salehpour et al., 2020, review)

Never heats up.

Within Low-Risk devices, FDA Category of “General Wellness.”

No medical claims made.

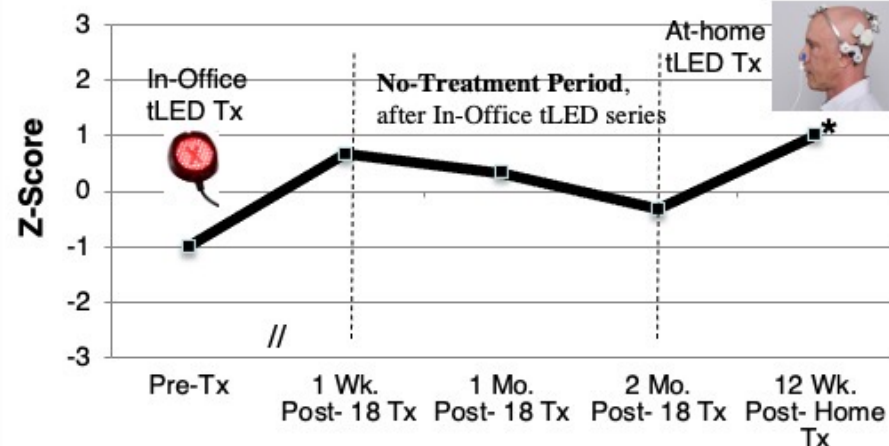
The athlete also obtained a red, 633 nm, red

LED Nose-clip device, used at home – 20 min, 6 days per Wk



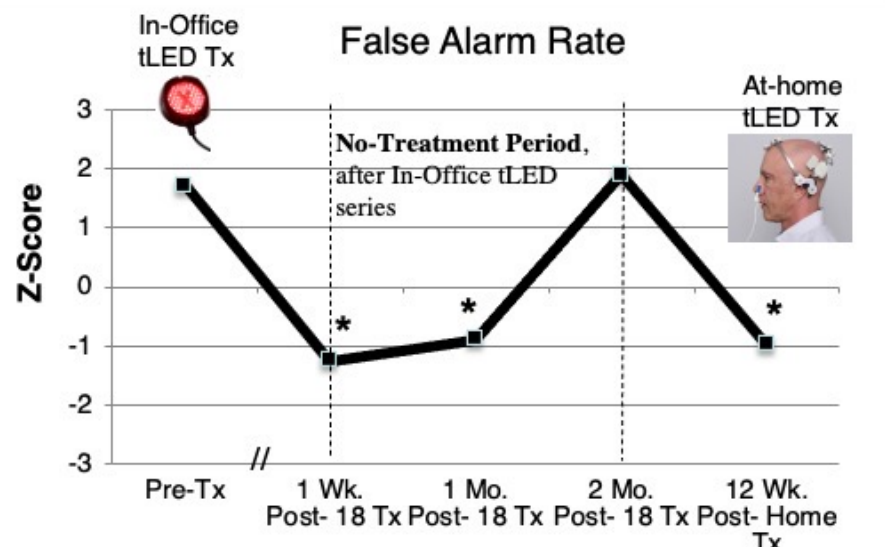
a. **Color Word Interference Test (Stroop)**
Executive Function

Trial 3, Inhibition



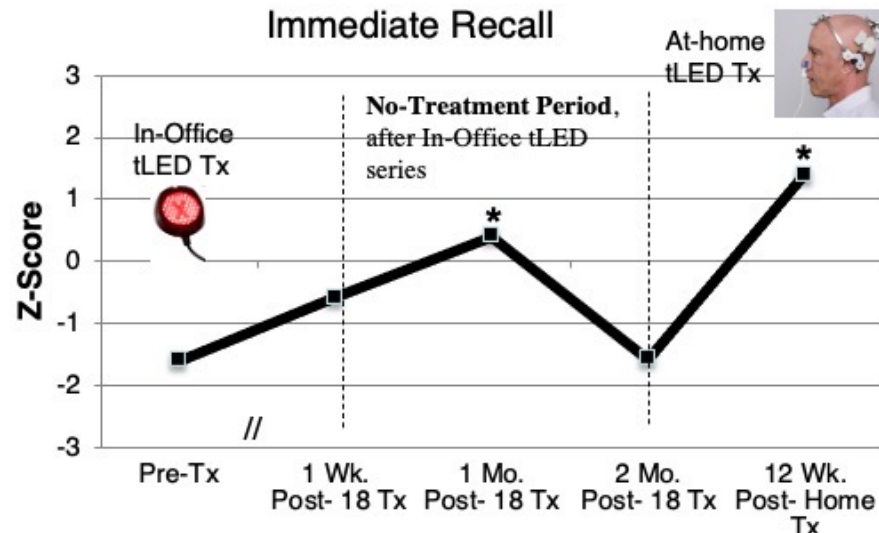
b. **Continuous Performance Test (CPT)**

False Alarm Rate



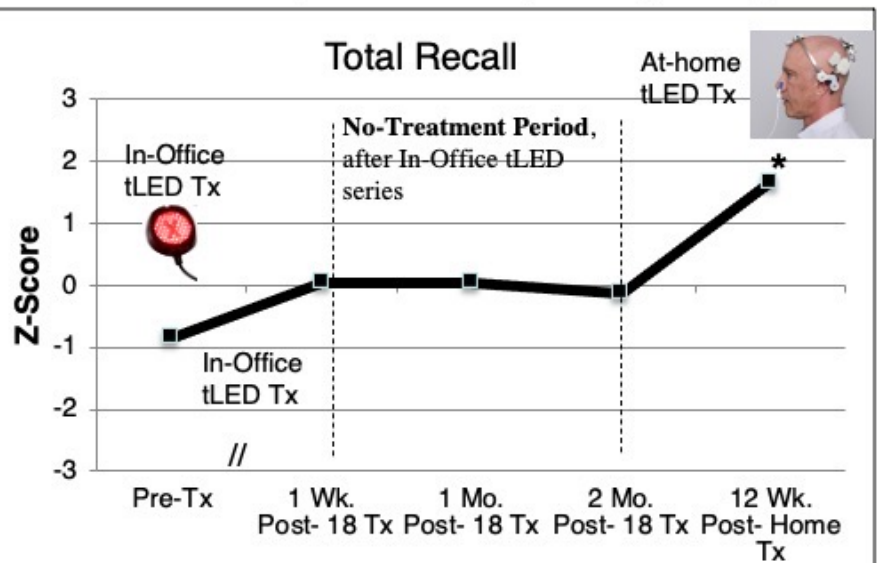
c. **Brief Visuospatial Memory Test (BVMT)**

Immediate Recall

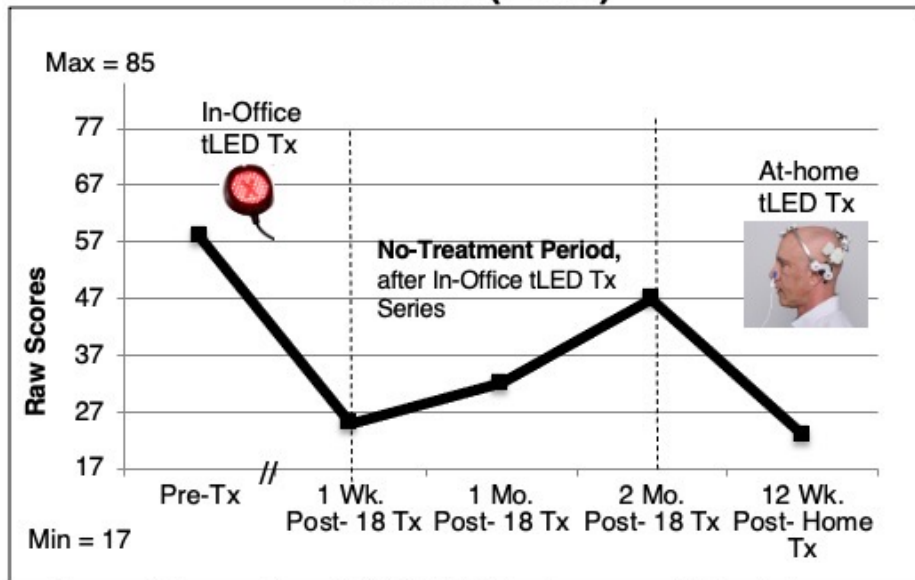


d. **Brief Visuospatial Memory Test (BVMT)**

Total Recall

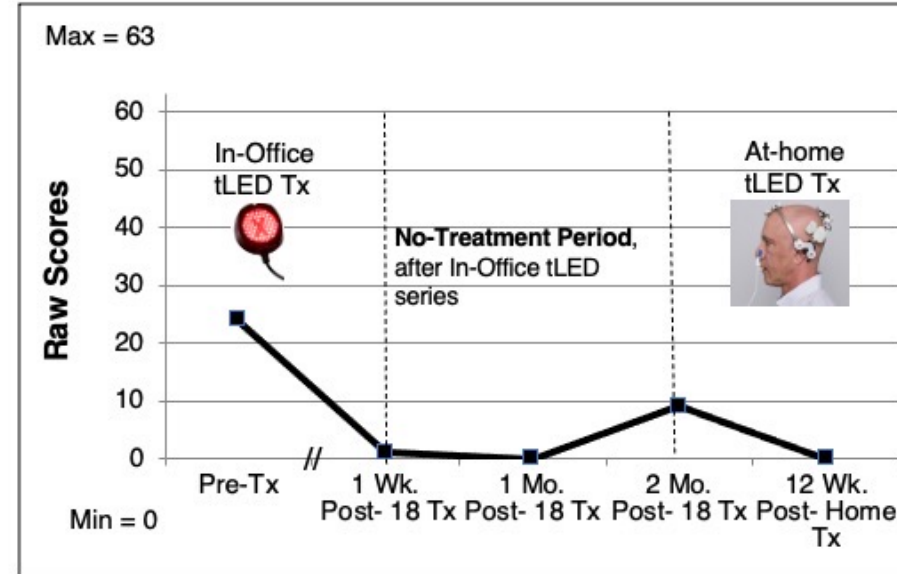


**a. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
Civilian (PTSD)**



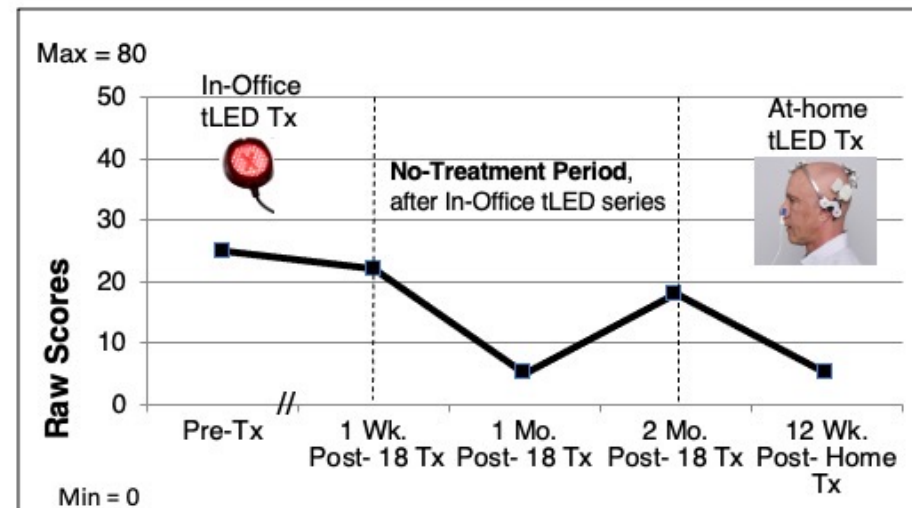
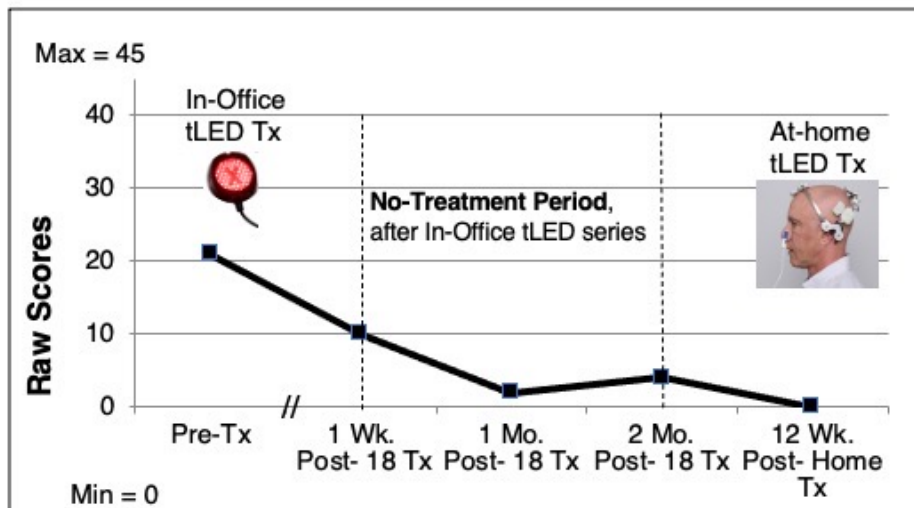
Score >36 suggestive of PTSD; Reliable decrease = 5-10 points
Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points (Monson et al., 2008)

b. Beck Depression Inventory – II (BDI)



d. Dysexecutive Questionnaire

Interference with Family and Community Activities



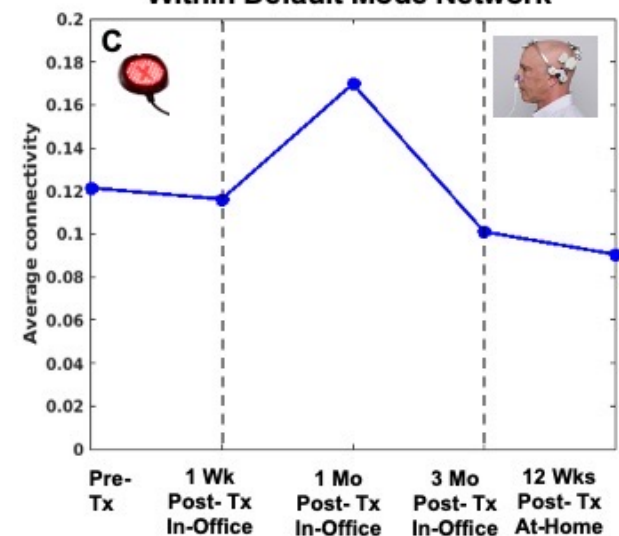
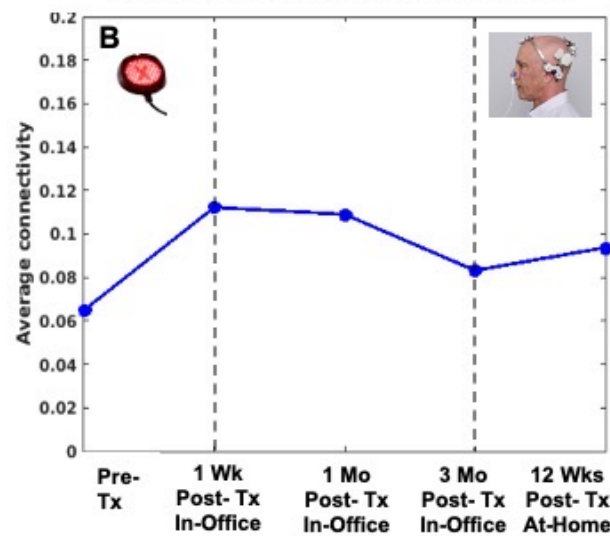
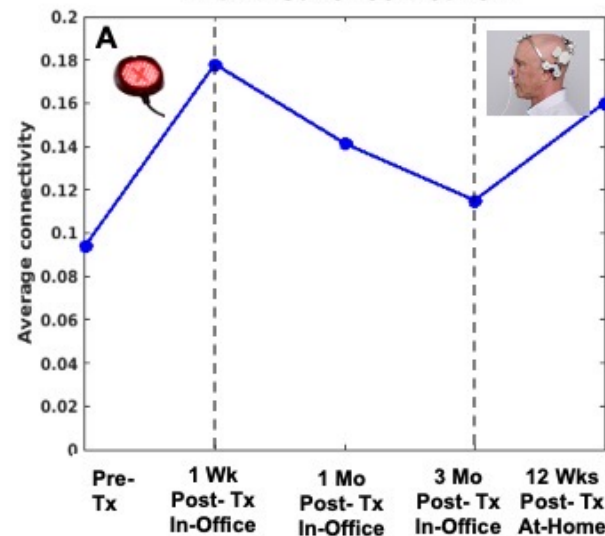
Resting-state Functional-connectivity MRI, over time. Athlete, age 65, *possible CTE*.

Average Connectivity over time, in each Resting-State Network, *Pre- and Post- tLED Treatments*

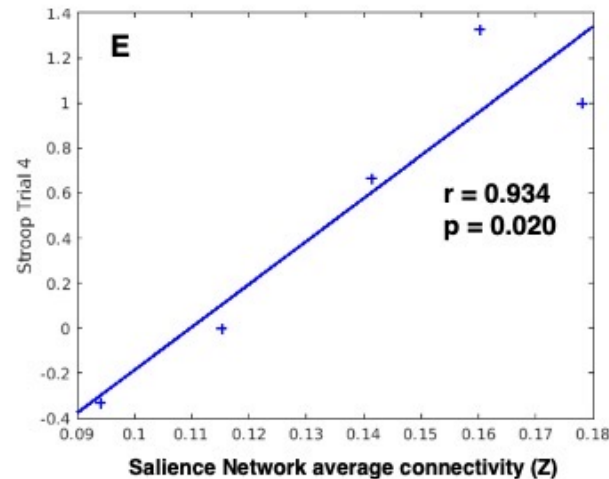
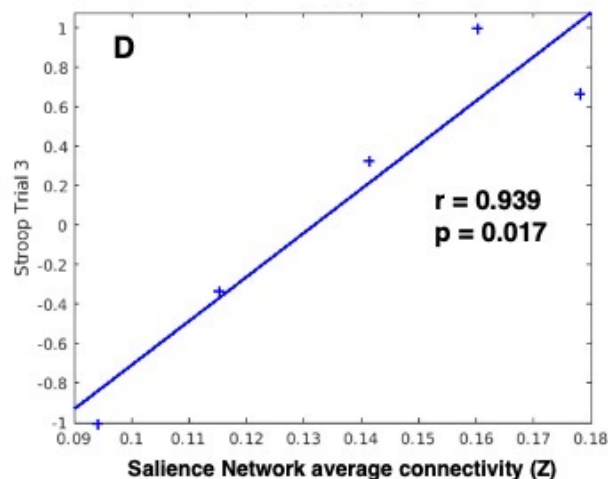
Within Salience Network

Within Central Executive Network

Within Default Mode Network

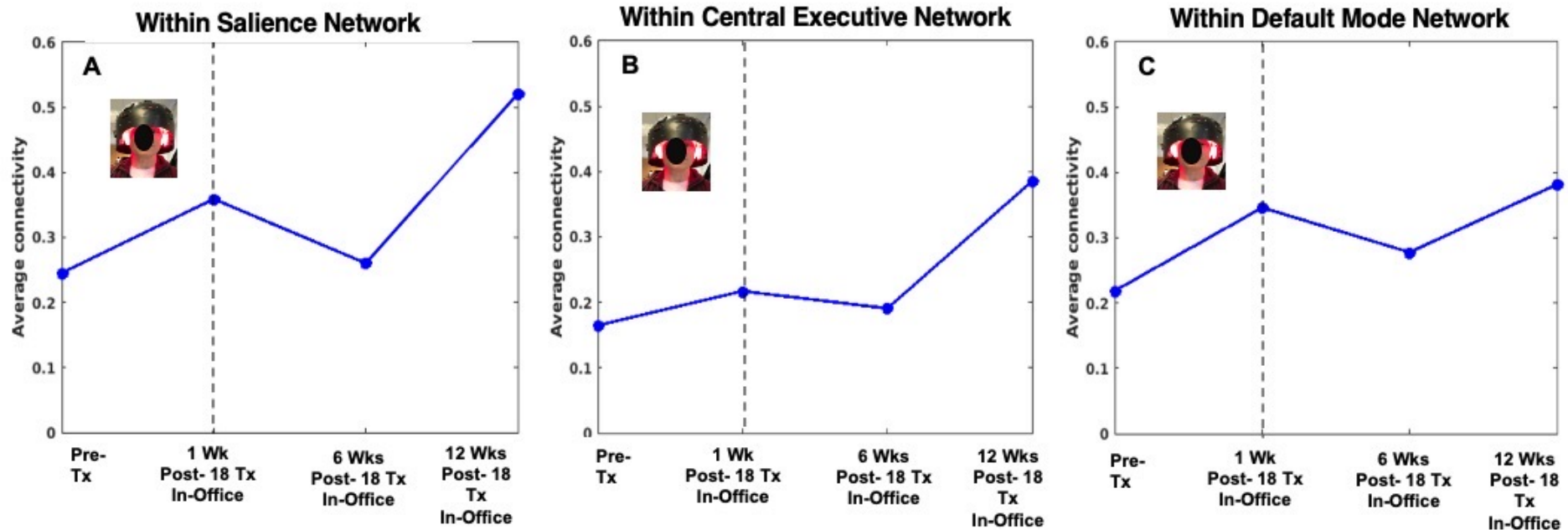


Significant Correlations between Salience Network over time, and Stroop, Trials 3 and 4 (Executive Function)

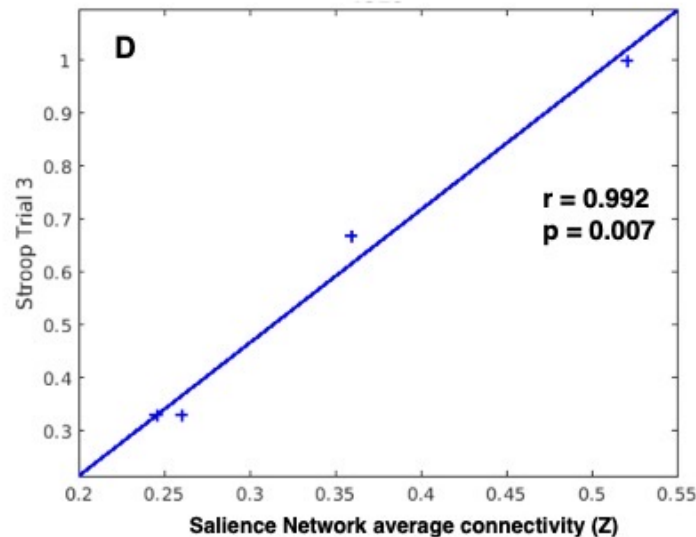


Resting-state Functional-connectivity MRI, over time. Athlete, age 55, *possible CTE*.

Average Connectivity over time, in each Resting-State Network, *Pre- and Post- tLED Treatments*



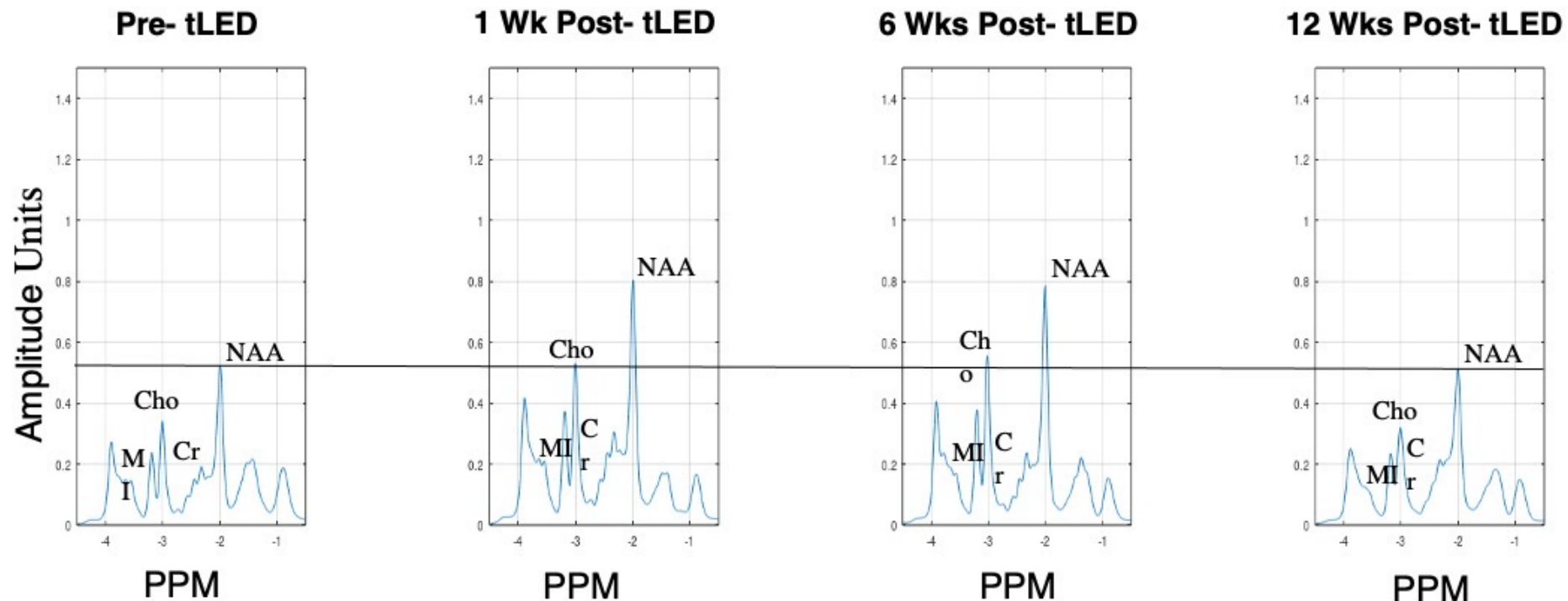
Significant Correlation between Saliency Network over time, and Stroop, Trial 3 (Executive Function)



Athlete, tackle football, 15 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 55. *Blast-TBI Veterans also develop CTE*

Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS)

Anterior Cingulate Cortex, Metabolite Levels: *Increased n-acetyl-aspartate (NAA) at 1 Wk and at 6 Wks, Post- the in-Office tLED Treatment Series; less pain and PTSD at those times.*



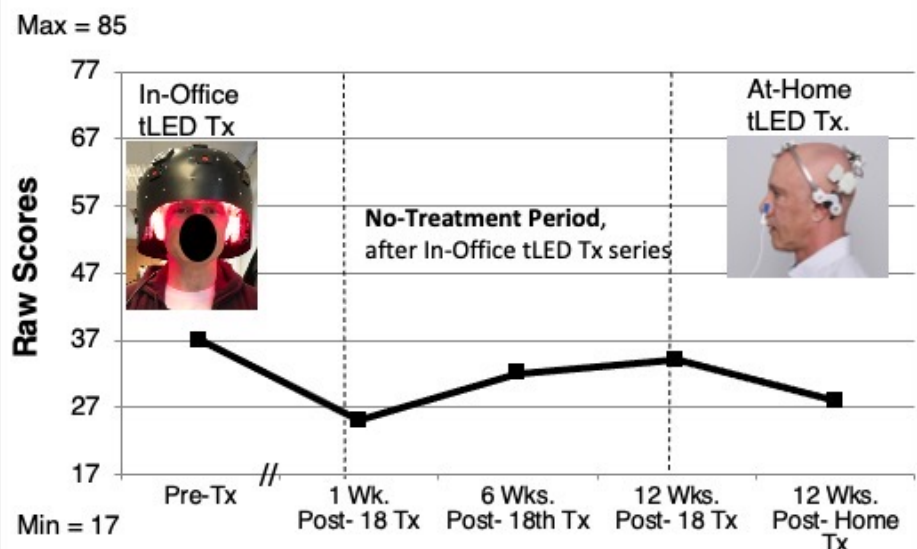
NAA is a neural marker present **only within the body of neural cells**, and **within axons and dendrites** (Simmons, Frondoza, Coyle, 1991)

NAA is synthesized in the mitochondria of neural cells, and the **concentration correlates with oxygen consumption**.

Reduced NAA reported in cognitive impairment; "this may reflect a **combination of loss of neural cells, decreased neural metabolism, loss of dendritic structures, and reduced myelination**" (Minati et al., 2007).

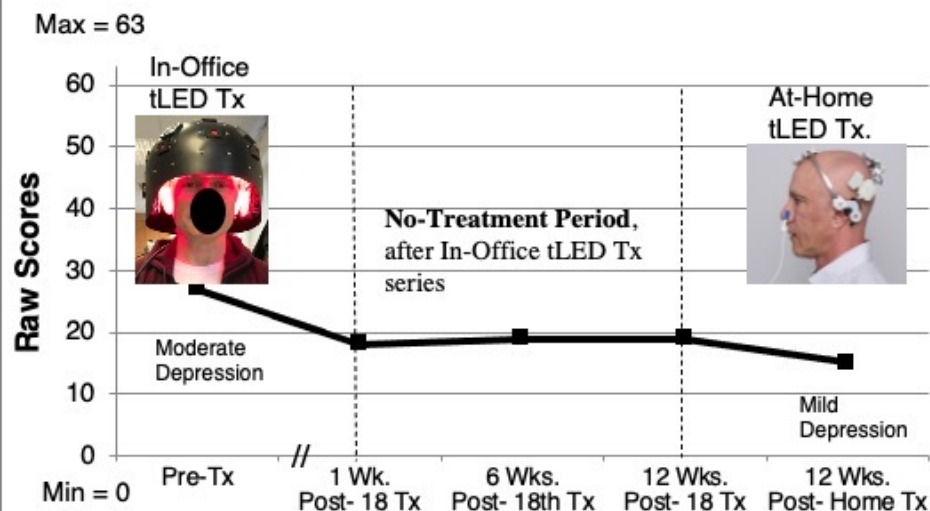
Athlete, tackle football 15 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 55. *Blast-TBI Veterans also develop CTE*

**a. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
Civilian (PTSD)**

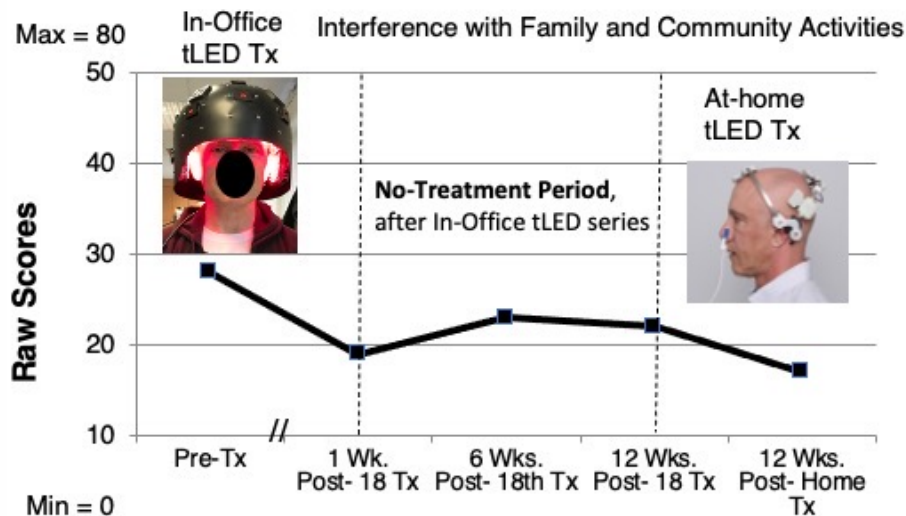


Score >36 suggestive of PTSD; Reliable decrease = 5-10 points
Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points (Monson et al., 2008)

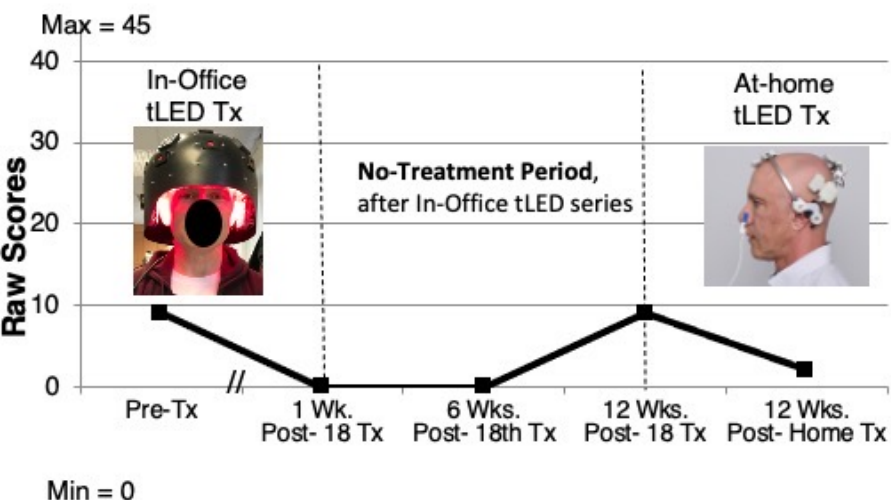
b. Beck Depression Inventory – II (BDI)



d. Dysexecutive Questionnaire



c. Short Form, McGill Pain Questionnaire



Changes in Brain Function and Structure After Self-Administered Home Photobiomodulation Treatment in a Concussion Case

Linda L. Chao^{1,2*}, Cody Barlow², Mahta Karimpoor² and Lew Lim²

¹ Departments of Radiology & Biomedical Imaging and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, United States; ² VA Advanced Imaging Research Center, San Francisco VA Health Care System, San Francisco, CA, United States; ³ Vialight Inc., Toronto, ON, Canada



(2) Precu/PCC-mPFC

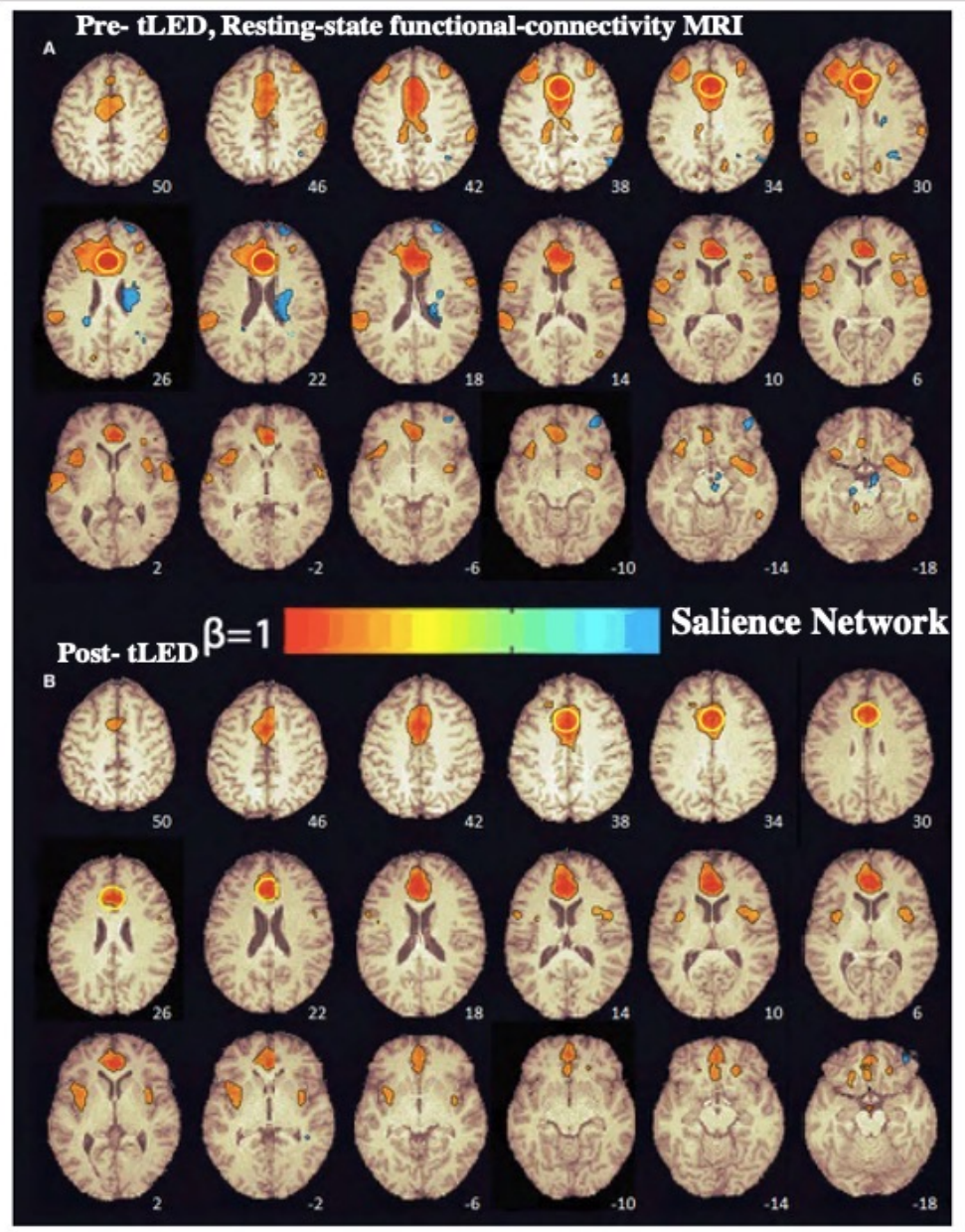
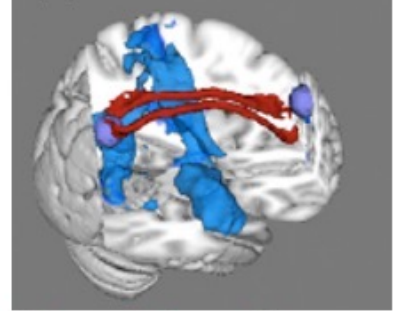


FIGURE 2 | Functional connectivity maps from the pre-treatment (A) and post-treatment (B) scans showing regions functionally connected to the seed in the anterior cingulate cortex. The numbers at the bottom right indicate the z coordinate (mm). The yellow circle denotes the seed in the anterior cingulate cortex. The color bar indicates the beta weight of the functional connections. The maps were thresholded at $p \leq 0.4$.

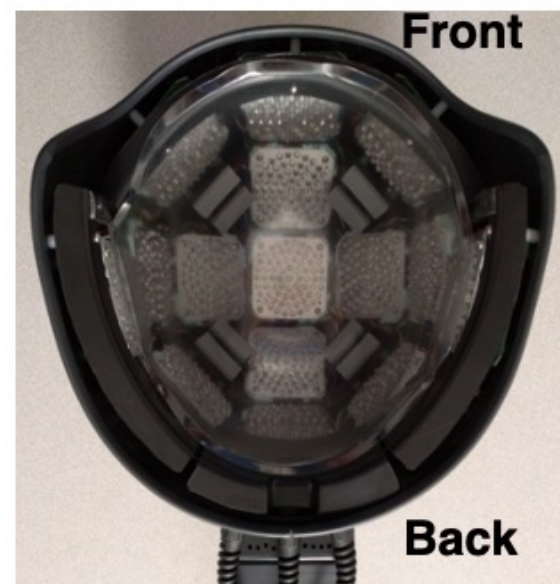
In-Office t-LED series, Thor Helmet, lined with red/near-infrared LEDs.

Athlete, tackle football 16 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 57. *Blast-TBI Veterans also develop CTE.*

Goldstein, Fisher, Tagge et al., 2012



Treated 3x per Wk,
6 Weeks



At each visit, Set A and Set B are used.

Set A.
Midline
Only.

5 LED
Placements

Then, turn
off the
midline
placements

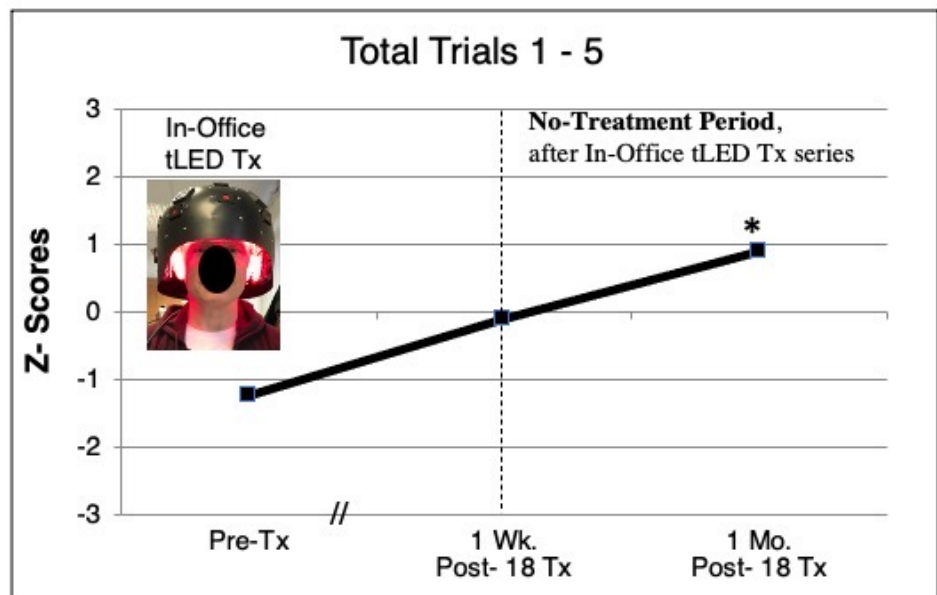
Set A	Set B
6.3 cm diameter each	6.3 cm diameter each
1265.6 mW	1075.4 mW
41 mW/cm ²	35 mW/cm ²
34 red 660nm diodes	34 red 660nm diodes
35 NIR 850 nm diodes	35 NIR 850 nm diodes
CW	CW
24.7 sec	29.1 sec
26 Joules/cm ² per LED cluster head	26 Joules/cm ² per LED cluster head
10 min 42 sec	12 min 36 sec
Sets A, B: 23 min 18 sec (covers whole head)	

Set B.
Only,
L and R sides,
Simultaneously

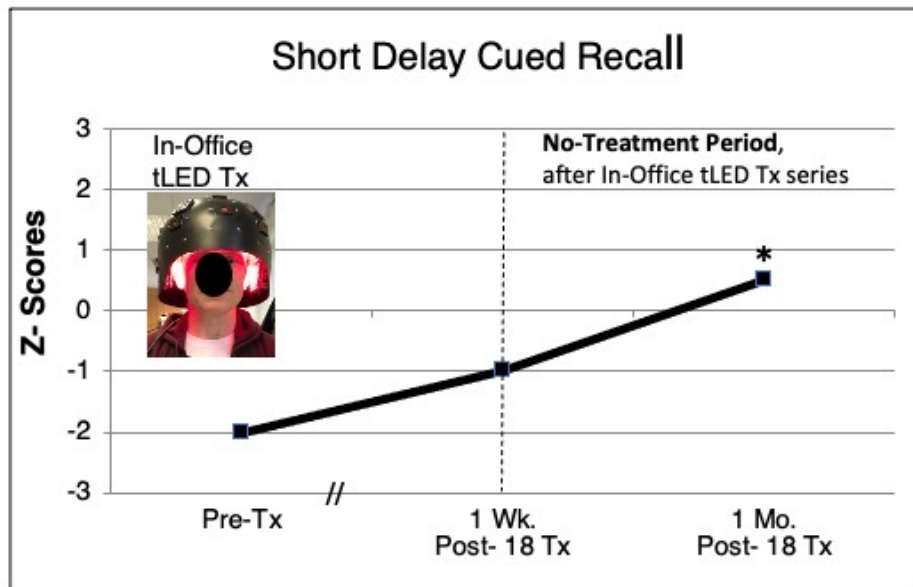
10 LED
Placements,
5 on each side

Then, the treatment
is finished.

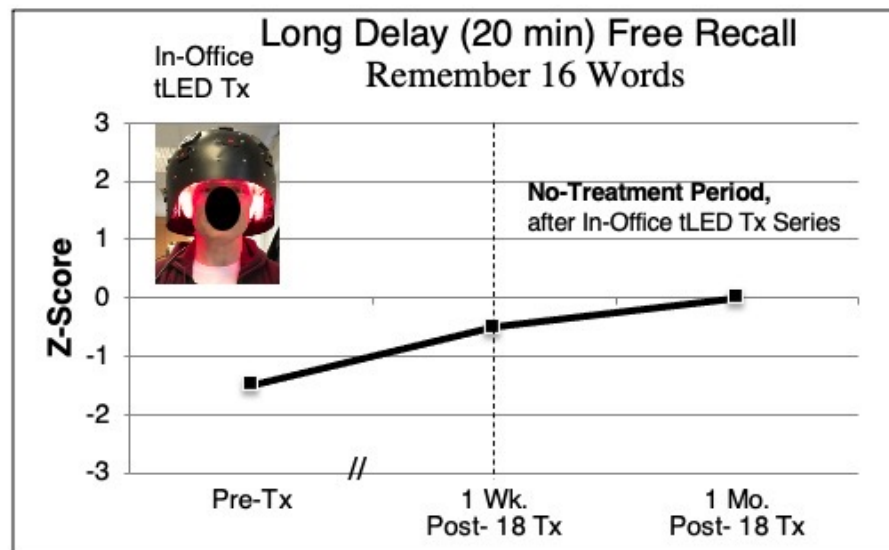
a. California Verbal Learning Test-II (CVLT)



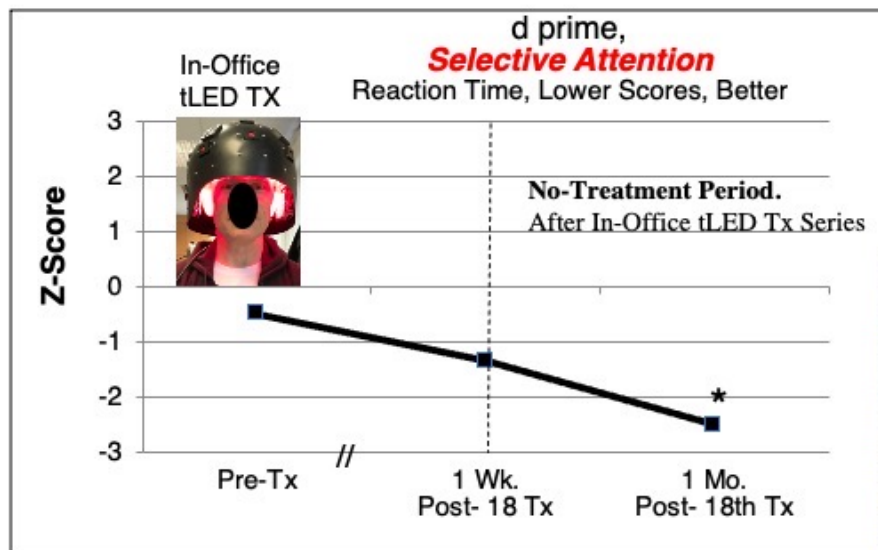
b. California Verbal Learning Test-II (CVLT)



c. California Verbal Learning Test-II (CVLT)

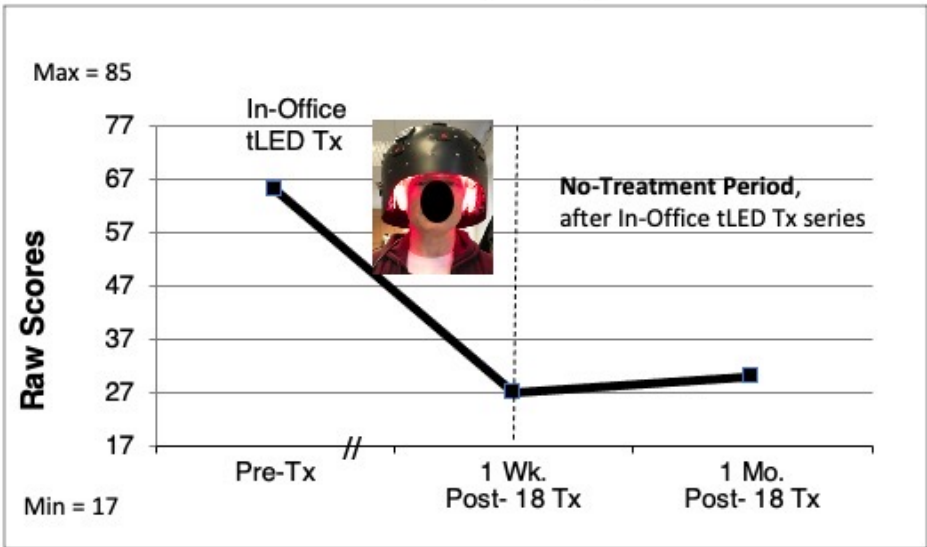


d. Continuous Performance Test (CPT)



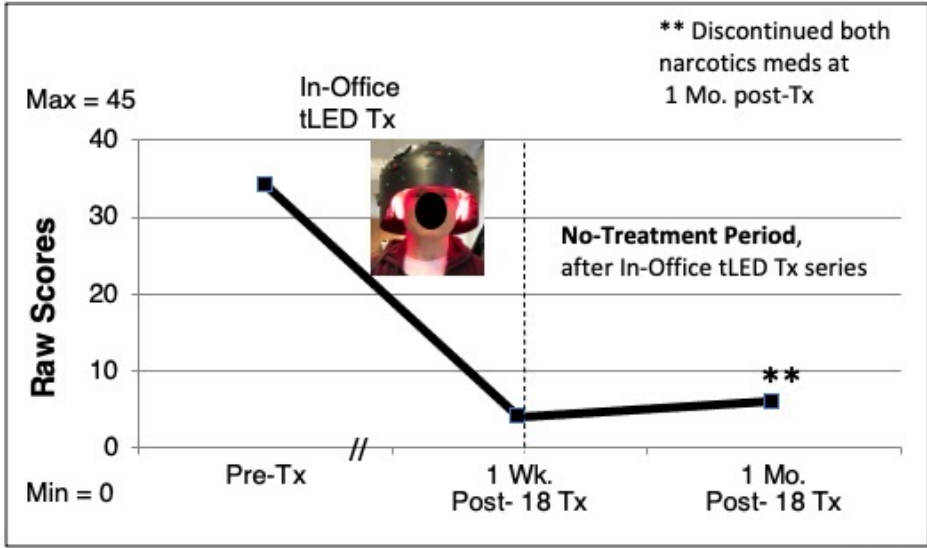
Athlete, tackle football 16 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 57. *Blast-TBI Veterans can develop CTE.*

**a. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
Civilian (PTSD)**

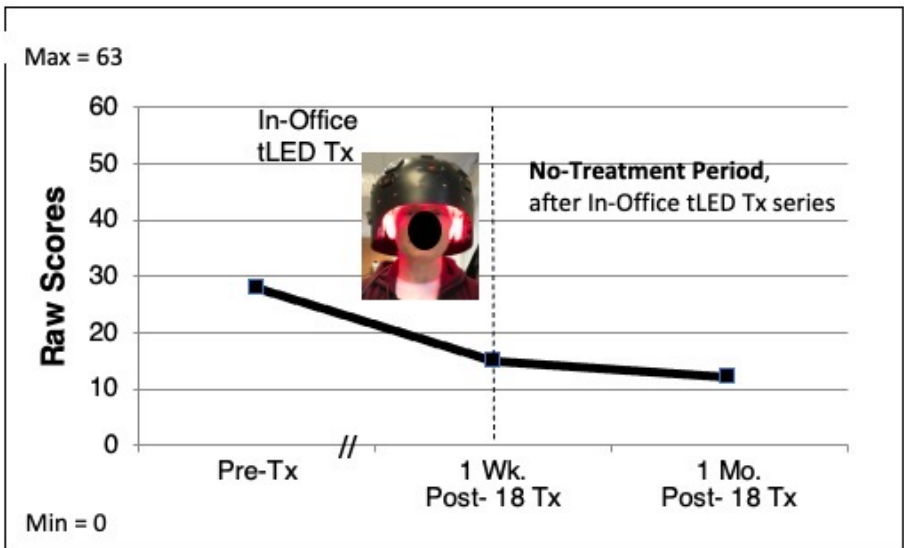


Score >36 suggestive of PTSD; Reliable decrease = 5-10 points
Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points (Monson et al., 2008)

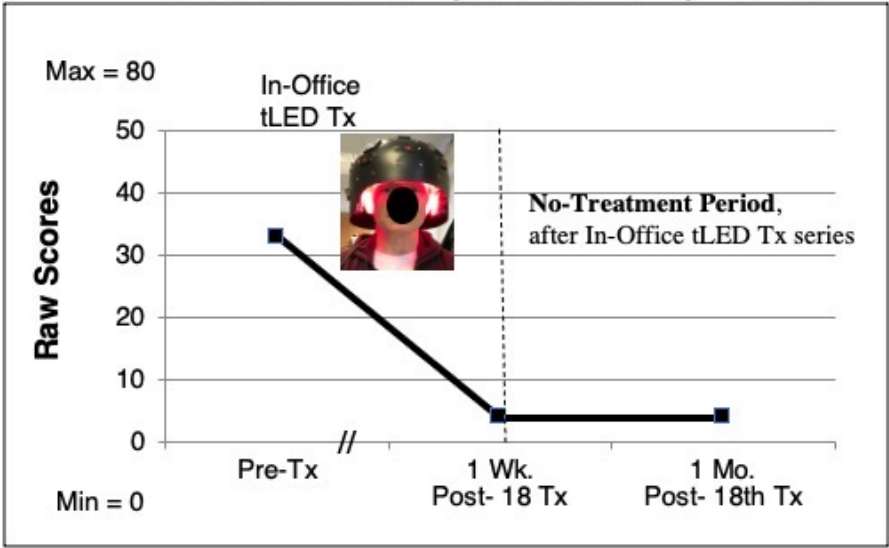
c. Short Form, McGill Pain Questionnaire



b. Beck Depression Inventory – II (BDI)



**d. Dysexecutive Questionnaire
Interference with Family and Community Activities**

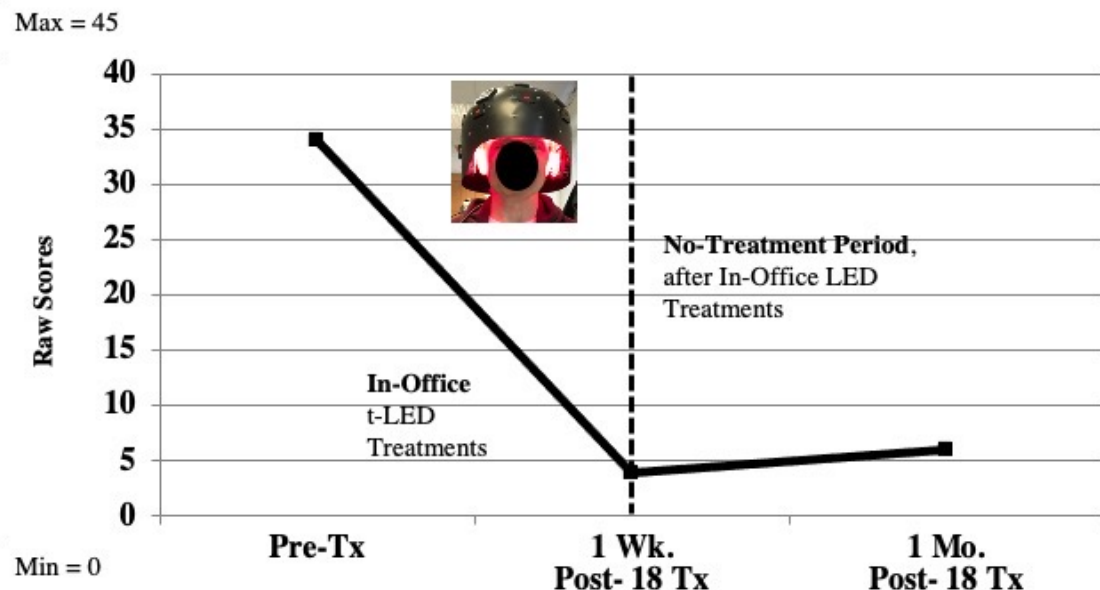


Athlete, tackle football 16 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 57. *Blast-TBI Veterans can develop CTE*

Results after 18 In-Office Transcranial LED Treatments

Reduced Pain, Discontinued 2 Narcotic Medications, Post- tLED Series

Short Form McGill Pain Questionnaire Lower Scores = Less Pain



VAS Pain Score Range: 0-10
R Shoulder, 15 Surgeries

Pre-LED Pain Meds:

- **2 Narcotics** – 2 types of oxymorphone
- also **Gabapentin (Neurontin)**

Pre- LED Pain Score: - 7/10

Post- LED - at 1 Week – **3/10**

Post- LED – at 1 Month – **5.5/10***

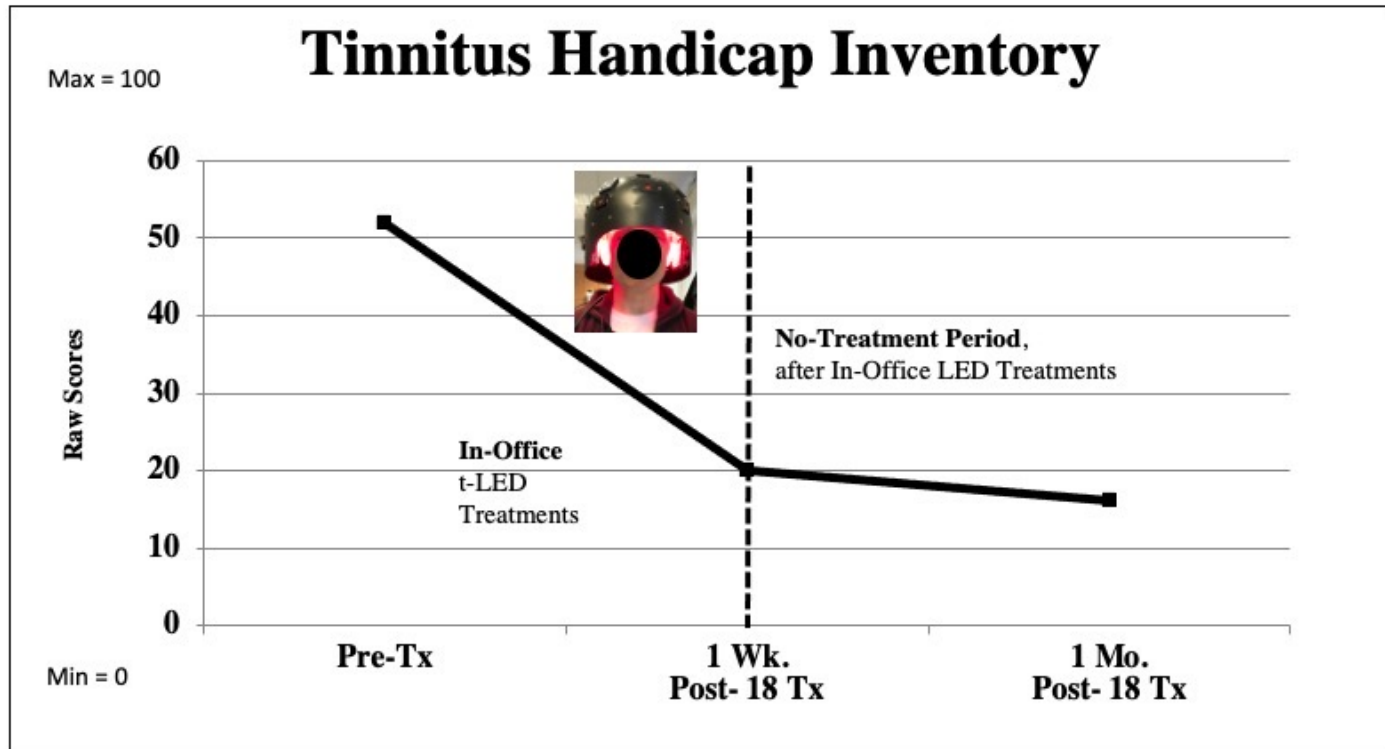
- ***Discontinued both Narcotics, at 1 Month.**
- **Then obtained his own Neuro Gamma LED device for Home Treatments.** No objective follow-up data, but reports “doing well.”

Note: The Default Mode Network (DMN) is dysregulated in Chronic Pain, and in Opioid Addiction (Garland et al., 2013).

The DMN was treated with the Red/Near-infrared LEDs, that line the Thor Helmet.

Neuro Gamma LED device, for Home Treatment treats *only Default Mode Network*.

Athlete, tackle football, 16 Years, *possibly developing CTE*, age 57. *Blast-TBI Veterans also develop CTE*



Tinnitus Study from Japan Near-infrared, Application to Neck

Change of Tinnitus with Xenon Phototherapy of the Stellate Ganglion

Masako Shimizu, MD,^{1,2} Takashi Matsuzuka, MD, PhD,¹ Fumiaki Matsumi, MD,²
Hiroshi Ogawa, MD, PhD,³ and Shigeyuki Murono, MD, PhD¹

TABLE 1. TINNITUS HANDICAP INVENTORY AND NUMERICAL RATING SCALE BEFORE AND AFTER XPSG IN THE XPSG GROUP

Severity of tinnitus (THI before treatment)	Number of patients	THI score		NRS score	
		Before	3 months	Before	3 months
No handicap	4	7.5 ± 2.2	8.0 ± 3.6	3.5 ± 1.0	3.0 ± 0.6
Mild	9	24.4 ± 1.6	22.4 ± 4.2	4.6 ± 0.7	4.1 ± 0.4
Moderate	9	48.2 ± 1.9	33.3 ± 4.7*	4.3 ± 0.4	3.0 ± 0.3*
Severe	21	78.3 ± 2.7	44.5 ± 5.5**	7.5 ± 0.5	5.3 ± 0.6**
Total	43	54.1 ± 4.3	34.6 ± 3.5*	5.8 ± 0.4	4.4 ± 0.3**

NRS, numerical rating scale; THI, tinnitus handicap inventory; XPSG, xenon phototherapy of the stellate ganglion.

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$.



Photo shows that the red, and thus also the near-infrared, (NIR) 850nm photons are **delivered to both sides of the neck, likely to the stellate ganglion regions**, which are important areas to treat with NIR photons, to reduce severity of tinnitus, as shown above (Shimizu et al., 2018)

See results for reduced tinnitus in athlete, age 57 Yr., treated with the Helmet, previous slide.

Suggested transcranial photobiomodulation (tPBM) research protocol, to treat Havana Syndrome.

(Naeser et al., 2019)

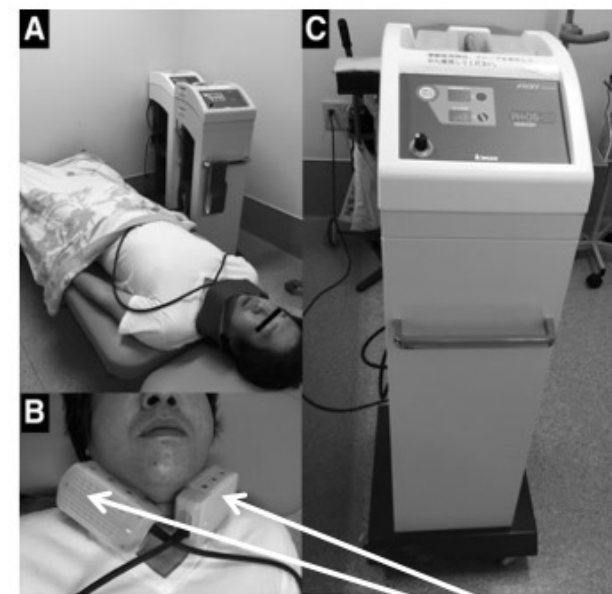
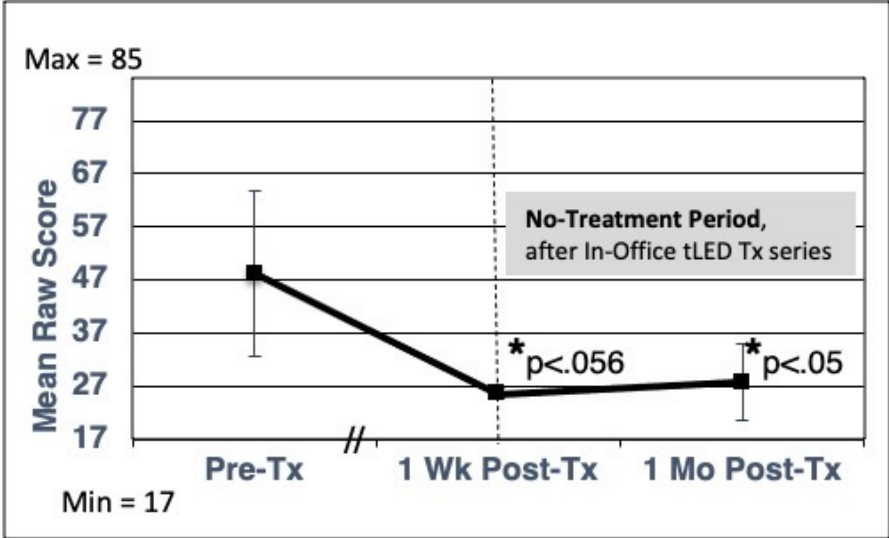


FIG. 1. Treatment was performed in a supine position: (A). XPSG probes were placed around stellate ganglion regions (B). Appearance of xenon phototherapy device (C). XPSG, xenon phototherapy of the stellate ganglion.

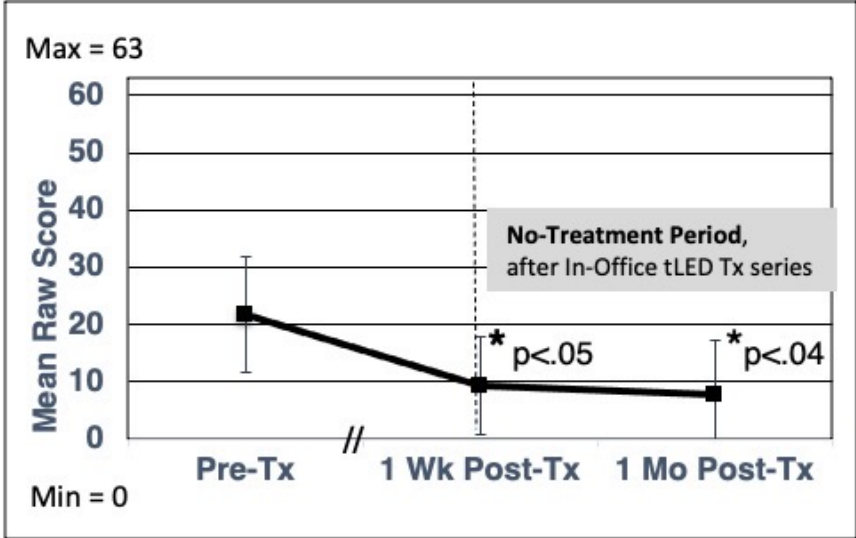
Group Results, n=4 Athletes, with possible CTE. Results relevant for Veterans, as they can develop CTE.

**Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Checklist
Civilian (PTSD)**

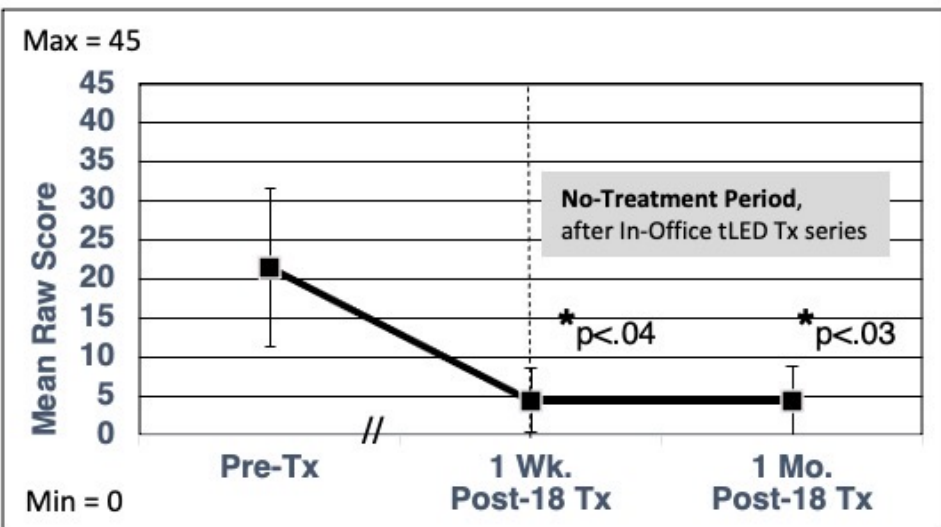


Score >36 suggestive of PTSD; Reliable decrease = 5-10 points
Clinically meaningful decrease = 10-20 points (Monson et al., 2008)

Beck Depression Inventory – II (BDI)

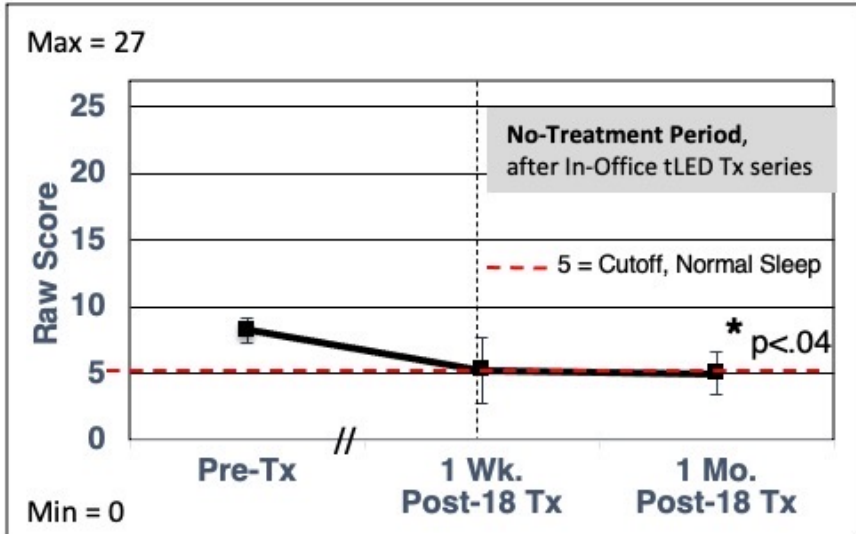


Short Form, McGill Pain Questionnaire



ANOVAs (1-tail), means; and error bars = 1 SD

Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)



Naeser, Martin, Ho, Krengel, Bogdanova, Knight, Hamblin, Fedoruk, Poole, Cheng, Koo

Possible Mechanisms for Transcranial LED Effects for Improved Sleep

Increase in Melatonin, and Improved Sleep, after Red Light.

Journal of Athletic Training 2012;47(6):673–678
doi: 10.4085/1062-6050-47.6.08
© by the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Inc
www.nata.org/journal-of-athletic-training

original research

Red Light and the Sleep Quality and Endurance Performance of Chinese Female Basketball Players

Jiexiu Zhao, PhD*; Ye Tian, PhD*; Jinlei Nie, PhD†; Jincheng Xu, MSS‡; Dongsun Liu, MS‡

*Sport Biological Center, China Institute of Sport Science, Beijing, China; †Department of Kinesiology, Macao Polytechnic Institute, China; ‡Department of Kinesiology, Beijing Sport University, China

Context: Good sleep is an important recovery method for prevention and treatment of overtraining in sport practice. Whether sleep is regulated by melatonin after red-light irradiation in athletes is unknown.

Objective: To determine the effect of red light on sleep quality and endurance performance of Chinese female basketball players.

Design: Cohort study.

Setting: Athletic training facility of the Chinese People's Liberation Army and research laboratory of the China Institute of Sport Science.

Patients or Other Participants: Twenty athletes of the Chinese People's Liberation Army team (age = 18.60 ± 3.60 years) took part in the study. Participants were divided into red-light treatment ($n = 10$) and placebo ($n = 10$) groups.

Intervention(s): The red-light treatment participants received 30 minutes of irradiation from a red-light therapy instrument every night for 14 days. The placebo group did not receive light illumination.

Main Outcome Measure(s): The Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI) questionnaire was completed, serum melatonin was assessed, and 12-minute run was performed at preintervention (baseline) and postintervention (14 days).

Results: The 14-day whole-body irradiation with red-light treatment improved the sleep, serum melatonin level, and endurance performance of the elite female basketball players ($P < .05$). We found a correlation between changes in global Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index and serum melatonin levels ($r = -0.695$, $P = .006$).

Conclusions: Our study confirmed the effectiveness of body irradiation with red light in improving the quality of sleep of elite female basketball players and offered a nonpharmacologic and noninvasive therapy to prevent sleep disorders after training.

Key Words: Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index, melatonin, 12-minute run

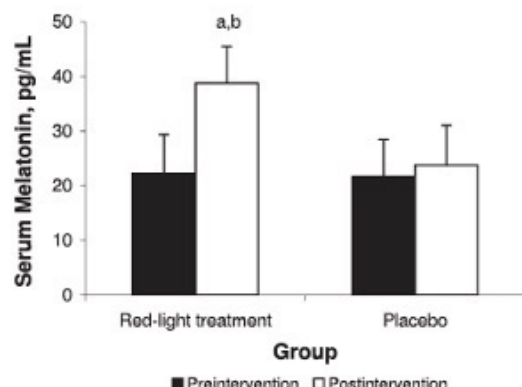


Figure 3. Serum levels of melatonin for the red-light treatment and placebo groups. * Indicates different from preintervention ($P < .01$). ^b Indicates difference between groups at postintervention ($P < .01$).

Possible Mechanisms for Transcranial LED Effects for Improved Sleep

Importance of ...Improved Sleep.

(Xie et al., 2013)

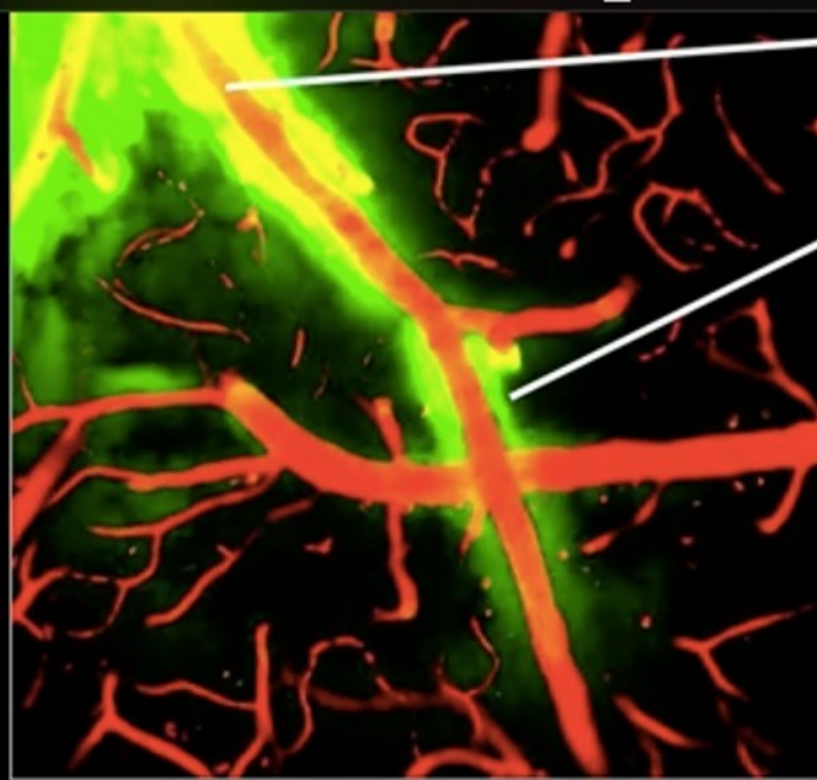
¹Division of Glial Disease and Therapeutics, Center for Translational Neuromedicine, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY 14642, USA.

²Department of Neuroscience and Physiology, Langone Medical Center, New York University, New York, NY 10016, USA.

Sleep Drives Metabolite Clearance from the Adult Brain

Lulu Xie,^{1*} Hongyi Kang,^{1*} Qiwu Xu,¹ Michael J. Chen,¹ Yonghong Liao,¹ Meenakshisundaram Thiagarajan,¹ John O'Donnell,¹ Daniel J. Christensen,¹ Charles Nicholson,² Jeffrey J. Iliff,¹ Takahiro Takano,¹ Rashid Deane,¹ Maiken Nedergaard^{1†}

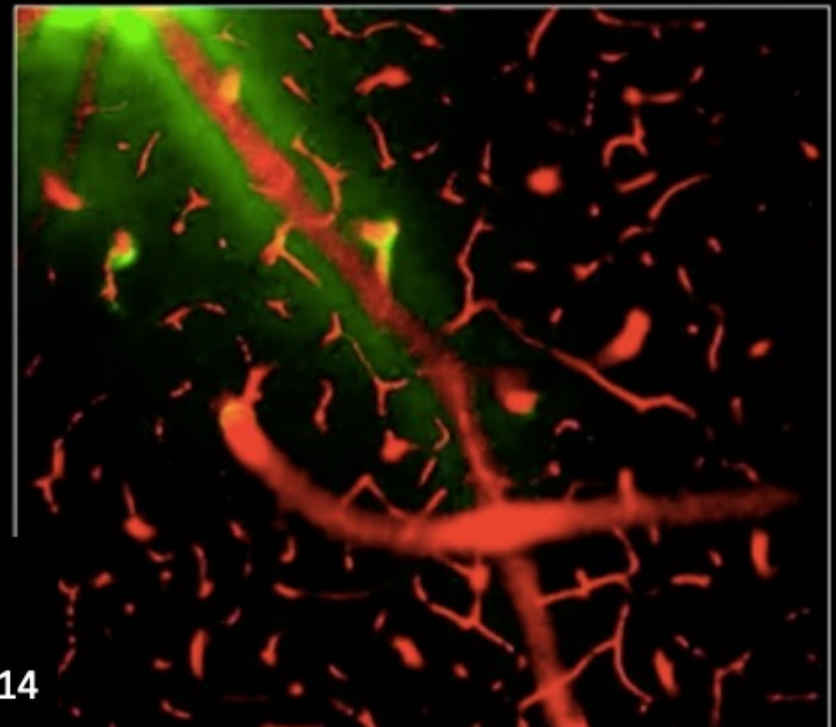
The conservation of sleep across all animal species suggests that sleep serves a vital function. We here report that sleep has a critical function in ensuring metabolic homeostasis. Using real-time assessments of tetramethylammonium diffusion and two-photon imaging in live mice, we show that natural sleep or anesthesia are associated with a 60% increase in the interstitial space, resulting in a striking increase in convective exchange of cerebrospinal fluid with interstitial fluid. In turn, convective fluxes of interstitial fluid increased the rate of β -amyloid clearance during sleep. Thus, the restorative function of sleep may be a consequence of the enhanced removal of potentially neurotoxic waste products that accumulate in the awake central nervous system.



Blood Vessels

Cerebrospinal Fluid
(CSF)

... and inside the brain



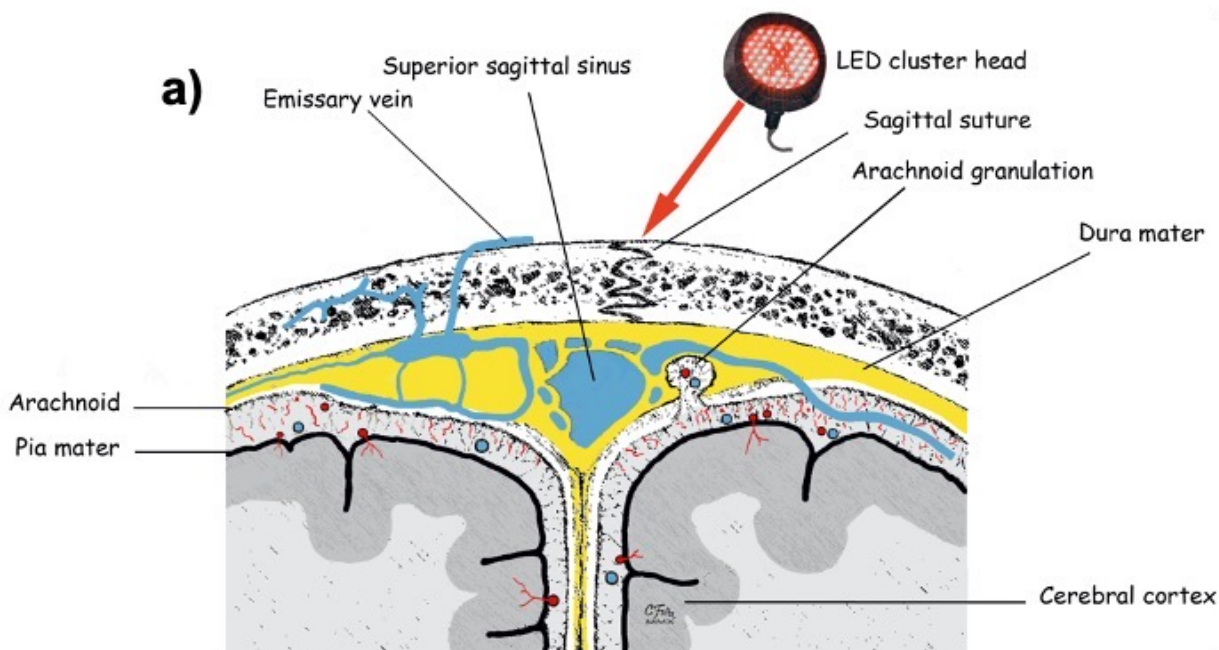
Imaging at the brain surface

J.J. Iliff, 2014

During sleep, cerebral spinal fluid rushes in, and surrounds cells and blood vessels at surface brain cortex, as well as deeper areas – to ***remove amyloid beta waste products*** from between the cells (built up during the day), ***pushing the waste products into blood vessels, for removal.***

In Alzheimer's Disease there is poor sleep and increased buildup of amyloid beta and tau waste products. One goal of treatment for Alzheimer's Disease should be to improve sleep.

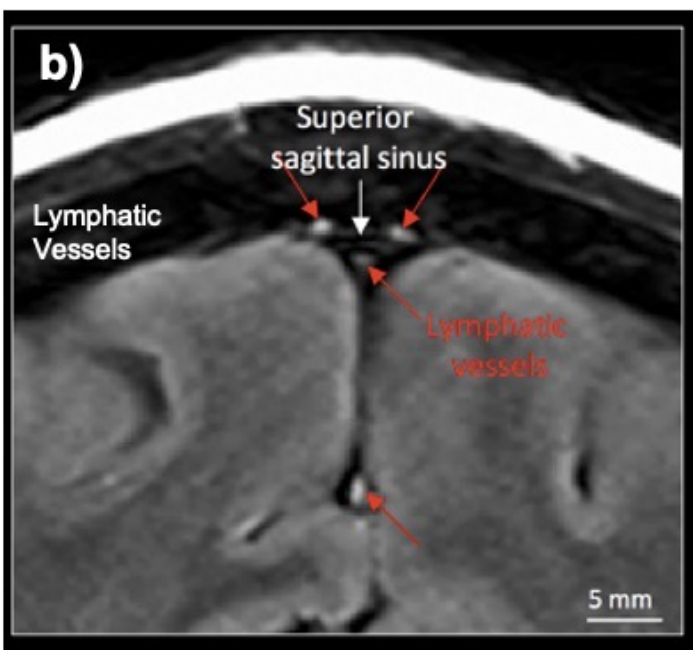
Hypothesis: Near-infrared LEDs promote *vasodilation of blood and lymphatic vessels*



a) Frontal view, Coronal Diagram, **Valveless Emissary veins**. Red/near-infrared photons, delivered there, to promote vasodilation of blood vessels.

Valveless, emissary veins connect the extracranial venous system with the intracranial venous sinus, including **direct passage from the external scalp to meninges**. Plates Grey's Anatomy, Oxford Univ. Press. (Naeser et al., 2011)

Naeser, Martin, Ho, Krengel, Bogdanova, Knight, Hamblin, Fedoruk, Poole, Cheng, Koo, in prep..



b) Frontal view, Coronal Diagram, **Lymphatic vessels**.

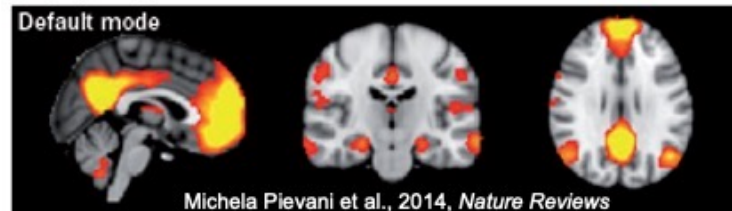
Assist in clearance of abnormal proteins – in CTE, remove p-tau?
NIR 1267nm laser removed beta amyloid in Alzheimer's Disease mice.

(Zinchenko et al., 2019)

Lymphatic vessels are within dura mater. Visualized post- gadobutrol, T2-FLAIR MRI scans in Humans.

(Absinta, et al., 2017)

Part 3. Dementia



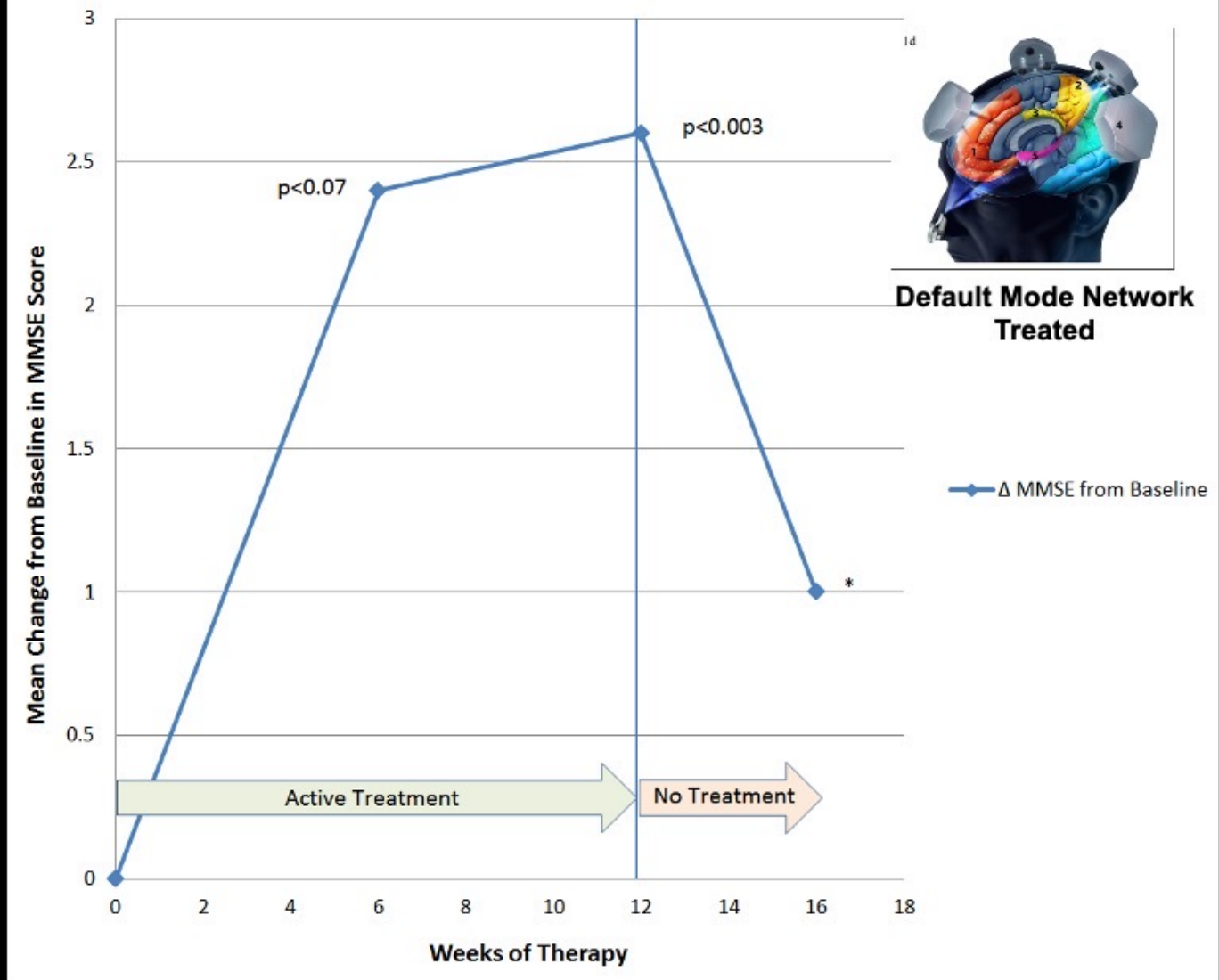
Significant Improvement in Cognition in Mild to Moderately Severe Dementia Cases Treated with Transcranial Plus Intranasal Photobiomodulation: Case Series Report

Anita E. Saltmarche, RN, MHSc,¹ Margaret A. Naeser, PhD,^{2,3} Kai Fai Ho, PhD,⁴
Michael R Hamblin, PhD,^{5,6} and Lew Lim, PhD, DNM, MBA⁷

Abstract

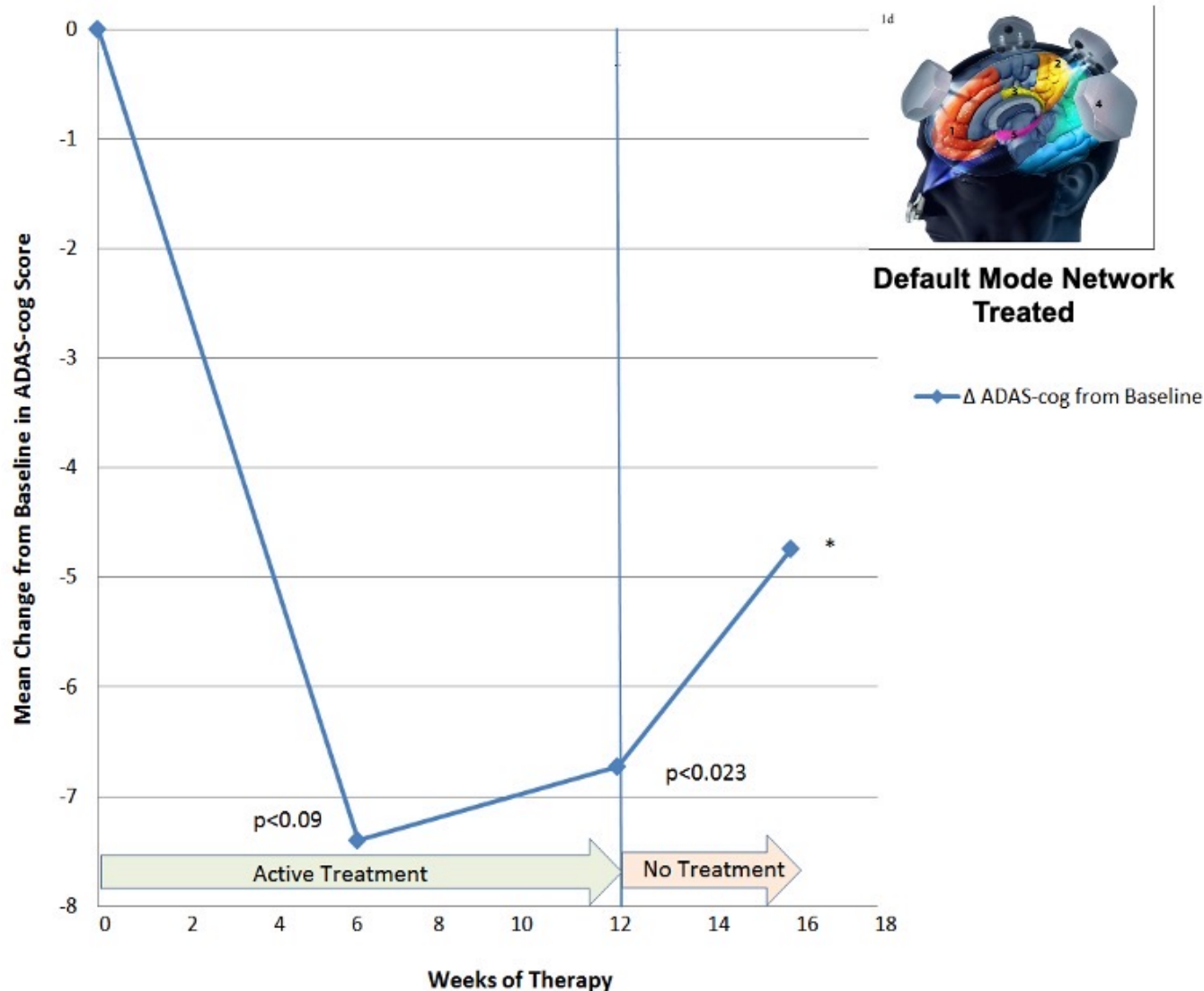
Objective: This study investigated whether patients with mild to moderately severe dementia or possible Alzheimer's disease (AD) with Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE) Baseline scores of 10–24 would improve when treated with near-infrared photobiomodulation (PBM) therapy. **Background:** Animal studies have presented the potential of PBM for AD. Dysregulation of the brain's default mode network (DMN) has been associated with AD, presenting the DMN as an identifiable target for PBM. **Materials and methods:** The study used 810 nm, 10Hz pulsed, light-emitting diode devices combining transcranial plus intranasal PBM to treat the cortical nodes of the DMN (bilateral mesial prefrontal cortex, precuneus/posterior cingulate cortex, angular gyrus, and hippocampus). Five patients with mild to moderately severe cognitive impairment were entered into 12 weeks of active treatment as well as a follow-up no-treatment, 4-week period. Patients were assessed with the MMSE and Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale (ADAS-cog) tests. The protocol involved weekly, in-clinic use of a transcranial-intranasal PBM device; and daily at-home use of an intranasal-only device. **Results:** There was significant improvement after 12 weeks of PBM (MMSE, $p < 0.003$; ADAS-cog, $p < 0.023$). Increased function, better sleep, fewer angry outbursts, less anxiety, and wandering were reported post-PBM. There were no negative side effects. Precipitous declines were observed during the follow-up no-treatment, 4-week period. This is the first completed PBM case series to report significant, cognitive improvement in mild to moderately severe dementia and possible AD cases. **Conclusions:** Results suggest that larger, controlled studies are warranted. PBM shows potential for home treatment of patients with dementia and AD.

5 Dementia Cases



RESULTS: Mean change from baseline on Mini Mental State Exam (MMSE) scores.
Higher numbers indicate better cognition on this test.

5 Dementia Cases



RESULTS: Mean change from baseline in ADAS-cog scores.
Lower numbers indicate better cognition on this test.

QUALITY OF LIFE (QoL) AND FUNCTIONAL CHANGES, Dementia Patients

Patient #	Baseline	12 Week Treatment Period	No-Treatment Follow-up Period
1	Apprehensive, spoke predominantly Portuguese with family, complained 'her head felt too heavy to hold up, headache'. Only responded to questions. Family stated she was more anxious, decreased ability to cook or clean, less interactive with family.	Openly smiling, laughing, hugged assessor. Stated frequently, head feels 'lighter' 'clearer', no headache. Family stated 'more talkative and active' (i.e. cooking, cleaning, going for walks, answering phone). Able to give a recipe to assessor by memory.	Slowly became more withdrawn, less engaged. More tired, feeling 'cloudy' 'heavy head', headaches returned. Cooked & cleaned less, personal hygiene declined. Did not want to participate in family gatherings.
2	Infrequent eye contact with assessor. Predominantly answered in Italian with long pauses between questions. Stooped posture shuffling gait, Live-in caregiver, assisted with mobility, dressing, personal hygiene, incontinent 6/7 nights. Not initiating conversation, minimal engagement during family visits.	Looked directly at assessor, spoke predominantly English, sense of humour and smiling. Remembered assessor's name, reason for visit and stated 'doing better'. By Week 6, walked into office more upright, steady pace, independent transfers from chairs. Incontinent 1-2/7 nights. Occasionally dressed self without assistance, more communicative, happier with caregiver and family.	First week without PBM treatment, started a rapid decline in behaviour (uncooperative and belligerent); functional decline (required assistance with mobility transfers, hygiene and dressing); and cognitive decline (less able to follow conversation, respond appropriately or remember events). Family requested to have LED treatment resumed.
3	Humor used to cover inability to answer questions. Denied memory loss. Thought he was still working. Read and listened to news. Wife not sure what he remembered. Minimal discussion of news or events.	Patient stated, 'easier to answer test questions', recognized when unable. Wife stated he was more interactive and reading his professional publications. Week 10, foot ulcer returned, below the knee edema, erythema, pain, grimace with transfers from chair, less bright and interactive.	Patient treated at foot clinic, little change. Foot pain all of the time, leg edema below the knee. Less focused during testing, decreased interaction, less humorous, personal hygiene declined (e.g., not clean shaven).
4	Outgoing, humorous, states he feels less happy. Agrees when wife states he is more forgetful, (i.e., only drives familiar routes to destinations, misplaces items). Asked wife for test answers. Working part-time, cooks his own ethnic meals.	Returned to building 'found object sculptures'. Able to re-route driving to accommodate traffic, states less forgetful, needs fewer reminders. Less dependent on wife for 'entertainment', generally happier. Looks less to wife for test answers, laughs, then answered independently.	No decline during 'No Treatment'. Wife confirmed husband had not lost the gains achieved during treatment.
5	Patient open about loss of memory and diagnosis of AD. Interactive, but slightly reserved. Aware when unable to answer test questions, needed	Week 3, stated he felt brighter, world had more colour, less frequently forgot why he went into a room. Worked in garden with wife, preparing to start oil painting again. More humorous,	Gradual decrease in 'brightness and clarity'. Both patient and wife noticed decline in memory, focus, less able to initiate and complete

Effects of Home Photobiomodulation Treatments on Cognitive and Behavioral Function, Cerebral Perfusion, and Resting-State Functional Connectivity in Patients with Dementia: A Pilot Trial

Linda L. Chao, PhD^{1–3}



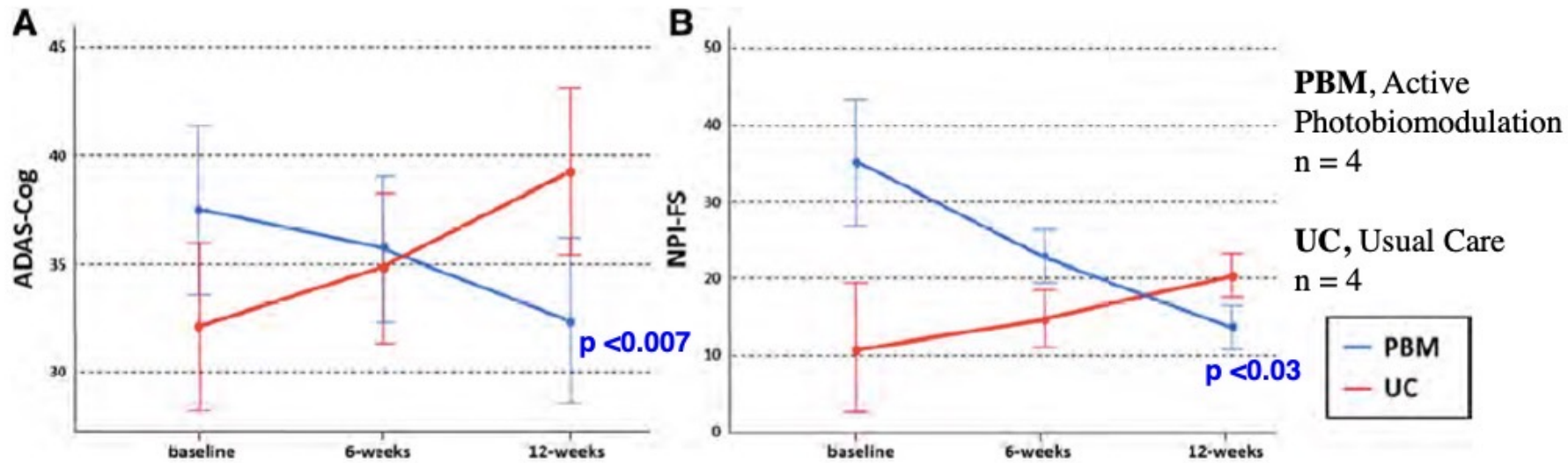


FIG. 3. Mean (\pm SEM) ADAS-cog (A) and NPI-FS (B) scores in the PBM (blue line) and Usual Care (red line) groups by time. Lower scores on both measures indicate better function. ADAS-cog, Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale-cognitive; NPI-FS, Neuropsychiatric Inventory frequency severity; SEM, standard error of the mean; PBM, photobiomodulation.

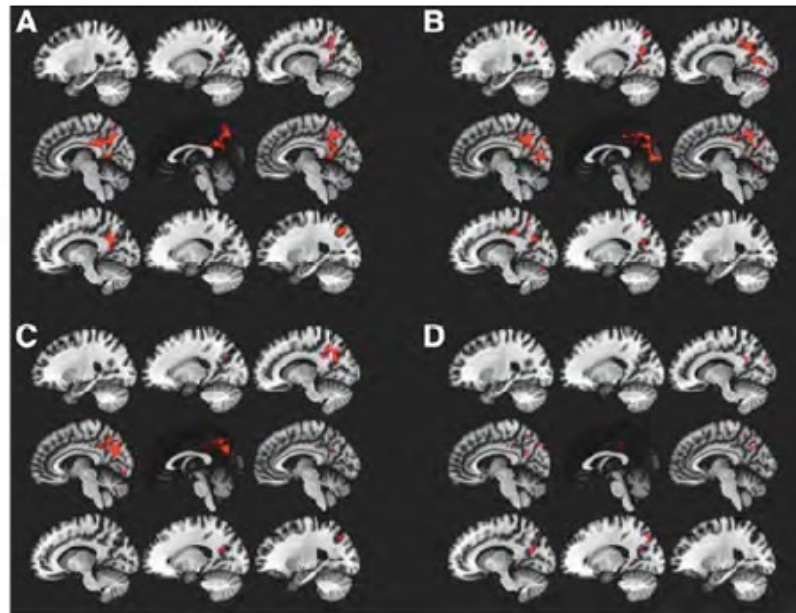


FIG. 5. Default-mode network activity in the PBM group—(A) baseline and (B) week 12 and in the usual care group—(C) baseline and (D) week 12. The posterior cingulate cortex (1, -61, and 38) was used as seed in the analysis; Height threshold: $P_{unc} < 0.001$; cluster threshold $P_{FDR} < 0.05$.

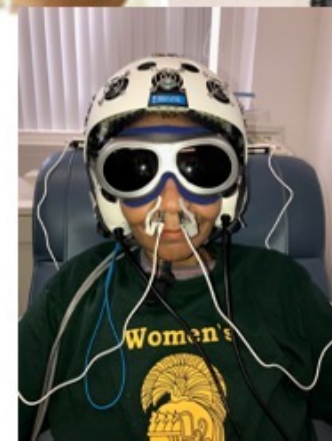
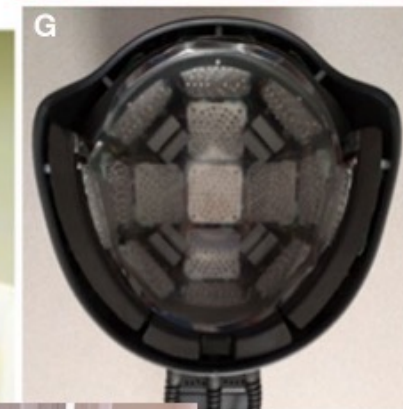
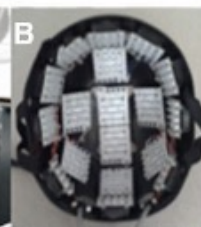
mma



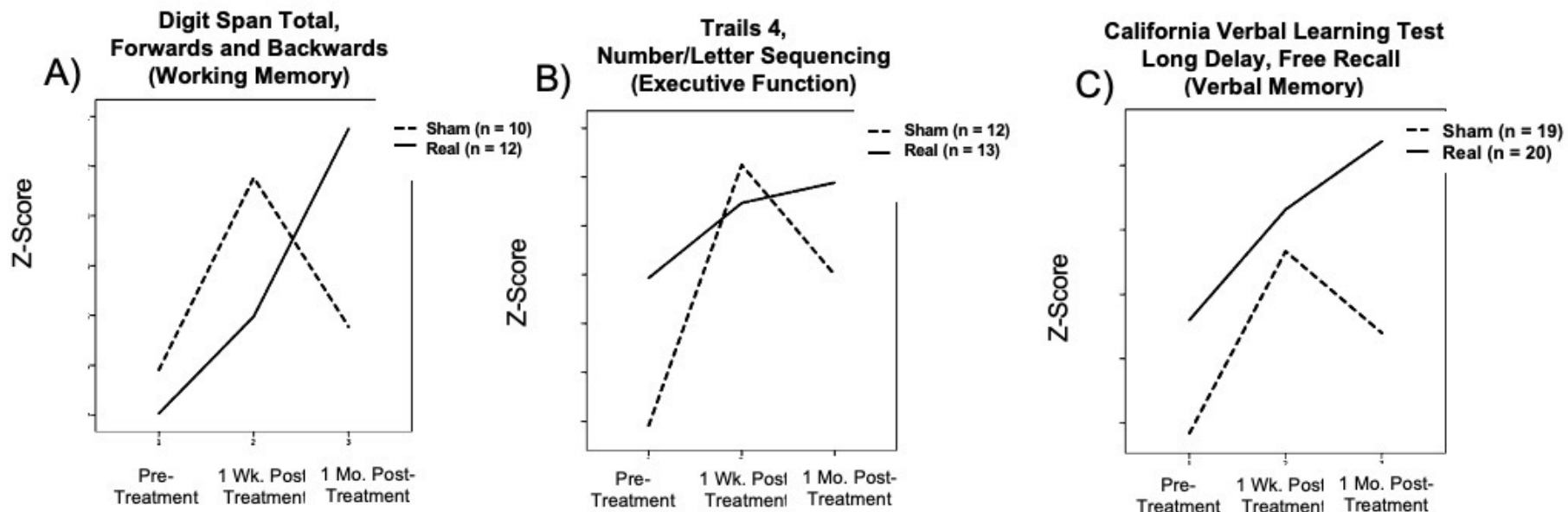
Gulf War Illness. Transcranial, Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Therapy to Improve Cognition in Veterans with GWI. Research funded, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, (CSRD)

Gulf War Illness veterans, served in Kuwait, 1990-91.

- 30% now have GWI **Neurotoxicant Exposures.**
- Pyridostigmine Bromide Pills – Anti nerve-gas pills.
- Organophosphate Pesticides.
- **Damage the mitochondria** in muscles and brain.
- Exposure to Burning Oil Wells; and some to Sarin gas
- 200,000 of the 600,000 deployed to Kuwait, now have Chronic, Multi-symptom Illness.



Gulf War Illness. Summary Results: Transcranial PBM to Improve Cognition in GWI



A-C. Both the Real LED and the Sham LED Groups improved at 1 Wk Post- the final, 15th transcranial LED treatment, but **only those who received Real LED treatments, continued to improve at 1 Mo. Post- the final, 15th tLED treatment.** Those who received **Sham LEDs, stayed the same or regressed towards Entry after 1 Mo.** There may be a **placebo response at the 1-Wk Post-testing**, possibly related to the **green goggles** used to sham-out the red, intranasal LED. **Green goggles were worn by all participants and therapist at all treatment visits. Green tinted lenses have a therapeutic effect** (Huang, Zong, Wilkins et al., 2011).

Placebo response wore off at the 1-Mo Post- testing time point, for the Sham LEDs.

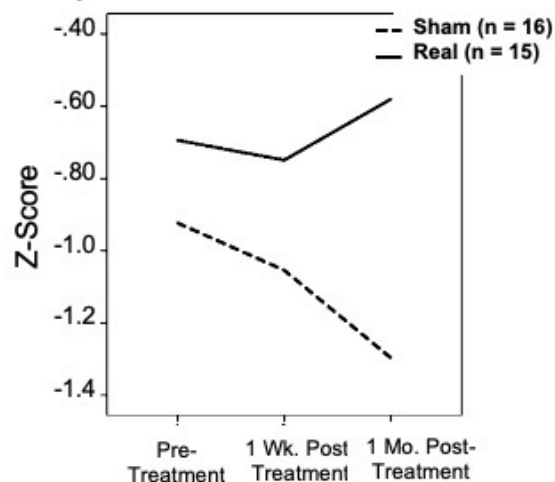
Study, underpowered. It was a burden for the GWI participants to come into the office at the Boston VAMC. 2x / Wk, almost 2 Mo, to receive the In-Office tLED treatments.

See published paper for details (Martin, Chao, Krengel et al., 2021, *Frontiers in Neurology*).

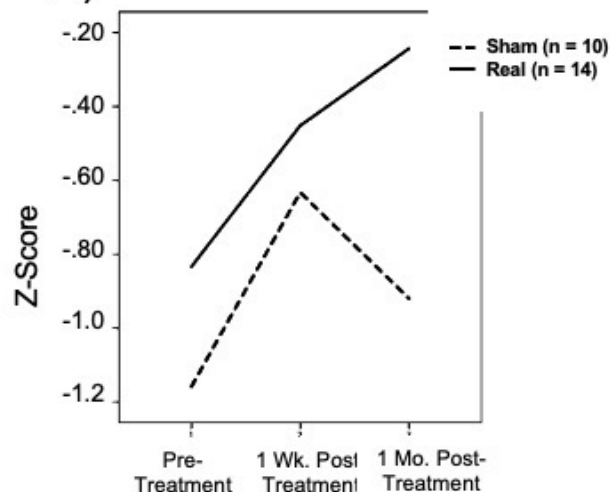
Future tLED Home Treatments are recommended for GWI cases

Gulf War Illness. Summary Results: Transcranial PBM to Improve Cognition in GWI

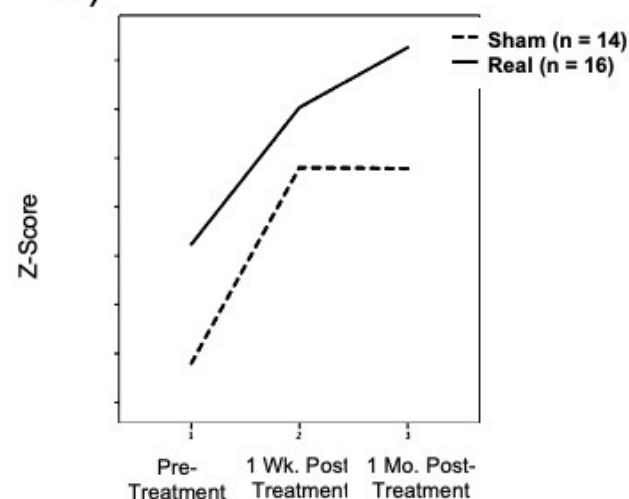
**D) Continuous Performance Test
False Alarms
(Sustained Attention)**



**E) Color-Word Interference Test
Stroop, Trial 3, Inhibition
(Executive Function)**



**F) Domain Score
Learning and Memory**



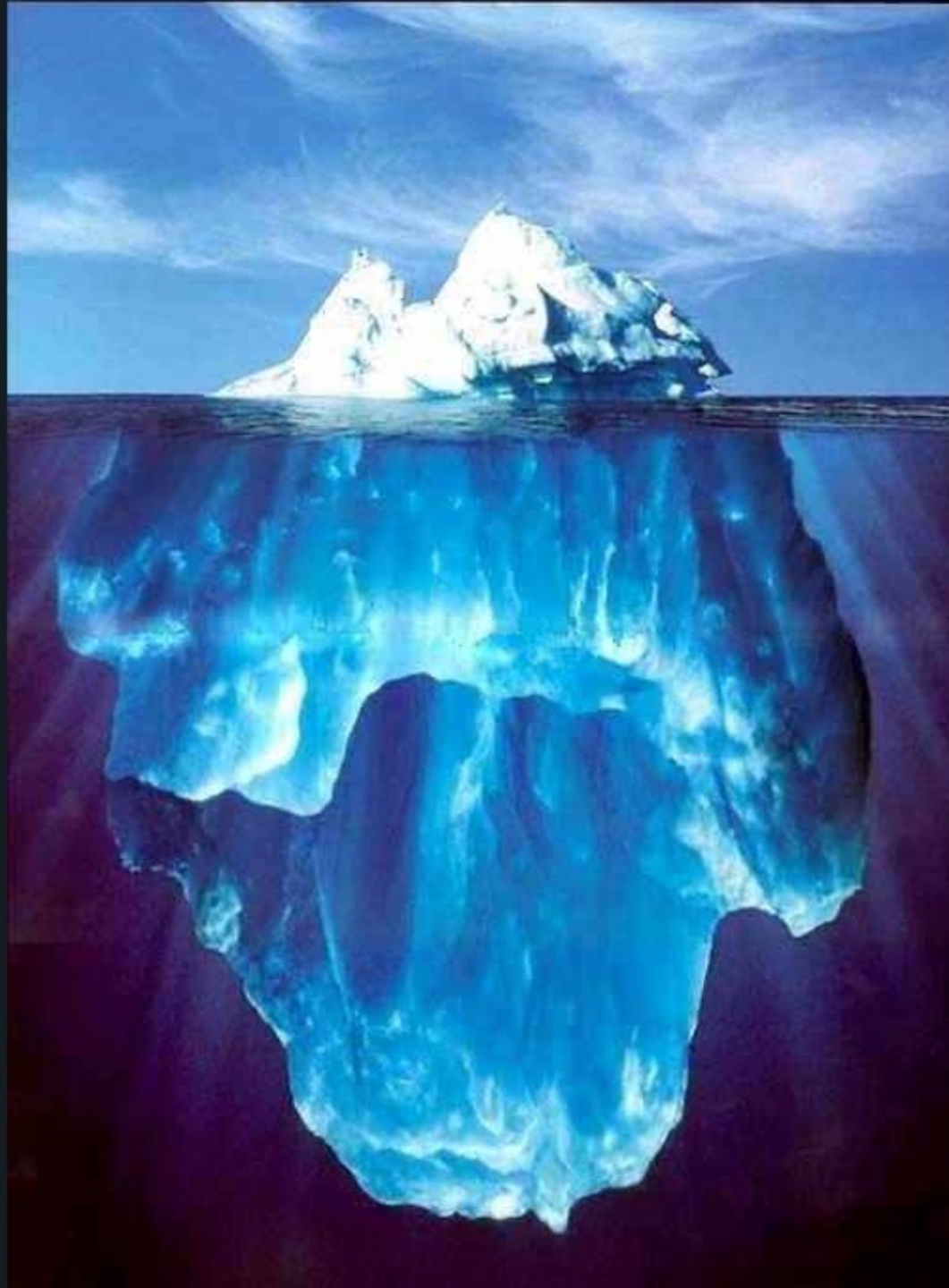
D-F. Both the Real LED and the Sham LED Groups improved at 1 Wk Post- the final, 15th transcranial LED treatment, but **only those who received Real LED treatments, continued to improve at 1 Mo. Post- the final, 15th tLED treatment.** Those who received **Sham LEDs, stayed the same or regressed towards Entry after 1 Mo.** There may be a **placebo response at the 1-Wk Post-testing**, possibly related to the **green goggles** used to sham-out the red, intranasal LED. **Green goggles were worn by all participants and therapist at all treatment visits. Green tinted lenses have a therapeutic effect** (Huang, Zong, Wilkins et al., 2011).

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Future tLED Home Treatments are recommended for GWI cases



**LED Home
Treatment
Program**
for
***Chronic,
TBI/PTSD***

Cases are
Screened
and
Trained, in the
in Rehab.
Med. Svc.,
Polytrauma
Clinic
Boston
VAMC.



**Not necessary
To shave
the head.**

**Used on
Trial basis,
“LED TBI
Clinic,”
Boston
VAMC, JP**

**Clinical
Demonstration
Project.**
Funded by VA,
**Center for
Compassionate
Care Innovation,**
VACO. FY'18,
'19. '20

Is within FDA
Category, low-risk
devices:
“General Wellness.”
No Medical
Claims made.

Vielight **Neuro Alpha**, pulsed at **10Hz**, **810nm** LED device. The smaller, flat rectangles contain the 810nm diode. Each diode is placed on a cortical node of the **Default Mode Network**: Bilateral **Mesial Prefrontal Cortex** (midline, high forehead placement); **Precuneus** (midline, high parietal placement half-way between occipital protuberance and vertex; Left **Angular Gyrus** (and Right, not shown) area (posterior/superior to the ear); (**Hippocampus**)/via olfactory bulb - nose-clip, intranasal placement.

LED Parameters for Vielight Neuro Alpha, 10 Hz (or Gamma, 40 Hz) Device – Headframe + Built-in Intranasal Device for use in LED TBI Clinic

Vielight Neuro Alpha Device



LED Parameters for NIR Vielight Neuro Alpha, 10 Hz (or Gamma, 40 Hz) **Headframe + Built-in, Intranasal Device used in LED TBI Clinic**

For all light emitting diodes (LEDs):

**Wavelength: NIR, 810 nm, Pulse rate: 10 Hz (or 40 Hz), 50% duty-cycle,
synchronized**

Treatment time: 20 minutes



Headset, 4 LEDs:

Posterior band, 3 LEDs – default positions on precuneus, and L & R angular gyri

For each LED:

Total power per LED = **100 mW**

Beam spot size upon contact $\approx 1 \text{ cm}^2$

Total power output density to scalp per LED = **100 mW/cm² @ pulsed 50% duty cycle, 20 min.**

Energy density to scalp per LED on posterior band = $100 \times 20 \times 60 \times 0.50 / 1000 = \mathbf{60 \text{ J/cm}^2}$

Total energy dose to scalp from posterior band = $60 \times 3 = \mathbf{180 \text{ J/cm}^2}$

Anterior band, 1 LED – on the mesial prefrontal cortex

For 1 LED:

Total power of LED = **75 mW**

Beam spot size upon contact $\approx 1 \text{ cm}^2$

Total power output density to scalp, 1 LED = **75 mW/cm² @ pulsed 50% duty cycle, 20 min.**

Energy density dose to scalp, 1 LED, anterior band = $75 \times 20 \times 60 \times 0.50 / 1000 = \mathbf{45 \text{ J/cm}^2}$

Total energy dose to scalp per headset = $180 \text{ J/cm}^2 + 45 \text{ J/cm}^2 = \mathbf{225 \text{ J/cm}^2}$

LED Parameters for Vielight Neuro Alpha, 10 Hz (or Gamma, 40 Hz) Device **Built-in Intranasal Device, used in LED TBI Clinic**

For all light emitting diodes (LEDs):
Wavelength: 810 nm, Pulse rate: 10 Hz (or 40 Hz), 50% duty-cycle,
synchronized
Treatment time: 20 minutes



Built-in Nasal Applicator, 1 LED:

Total power output = **25 mW**

Beam spot size upon contact \approx **1 cm²**

Total power output density to mucosa = **25 mW/cm²** @ pulsed 50% duty cycle,
20 min.

Total energy dose to mucosa from intranasal = $25 \times 20 \times 60 \times 0.50 / 1000 =$ **15 J/cm²**

Total energy dose to scalp from Vielight Neuro Alpha (or Gamma) Device:

From Headframe (225 J/cm²)

plus

From Nasal Applicator (15 J/cm²) = **240 J/cm²**

18 LED Treatments, 3x/Wk, 6 Wks (240 J/cm² x 18) = **4,320 Total J/cm²**

Gut feeling the wait for relief may be over

Parkinson's disease may have met its match and from an unlikely source.

By SUVI MAHONEN



The Australasian Research Institute's Ann Liebert with Parkinson's patient Suzanne Fischer.
Picture: Ryan Osland

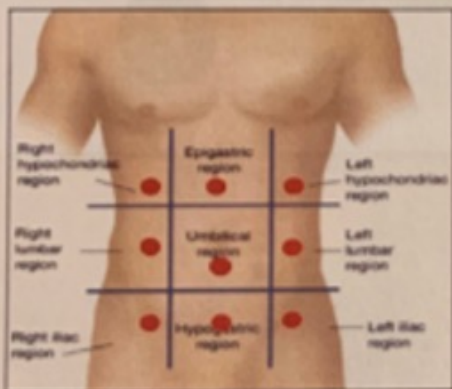
SYMBYX
BIOME

PDCare System Treatment Protocol

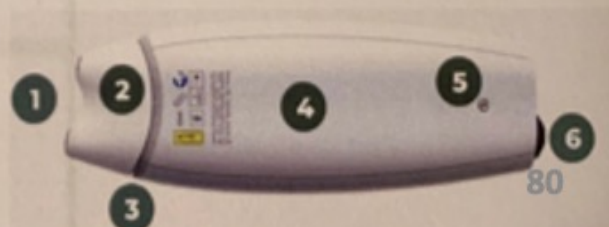
The LED *Coronet* is used to treat the head. Make sure that it is fitted well, touching the head with the pads around the rim and crown; but not anywhere else. Tilt it back on the head a little. When turned on at the wall, it will give approximately 12 min of red light and 8 min of infrared before turning itself off. There is no on/off switch on the device. Each session therefore is approximately 20 min long. **Dr Liebert suggests that you use it in the evening every day, to begin with.** Depending on how you go, this increase to 2x per day.



PDCare 904 nm Laser by SYMBYX



The *PDCARE Laser* is used to treat the abdomen and neck. Turn it on with the button on the base (number 6 below) - you will hear 4 short beeps and see a flashing light (number 3 below). Press it onto the spot to be treated (at number 2 below) with enough pressure to turn it on. You will hear 1 beep. The laser will beep every minute. **Dr Liebert suggests that you hold it on each spot on the abdomen for 2 beeps (2 min total).** Treat over your bare abdomen (it won't penetrate clothes very well!) in a grid pattern as shown in the diagram. The top 3 spots just under the ribs and the bottom 3 just above the pelvis.





Dr Liebert also wants you to press the laser against the neck at the base of the skull for 2 beeps - for 2 min total. Your entire *PDCare Laser* treatment will take approximately 22 min. Make sure you turn off the button on the base (number 6 above) when you have finished to save the batteries (housed behind numbers 4/5 above)! **Use your *PDCare Laser* 3x week, preferably in the morning before exercise.** An instructional video for the laser can be found on our website in the "How to Use" tab. Please see (<http://symbyxbiome.com>).

For more information on the PD protocol, contact:

<http://symbyxbiome.com>

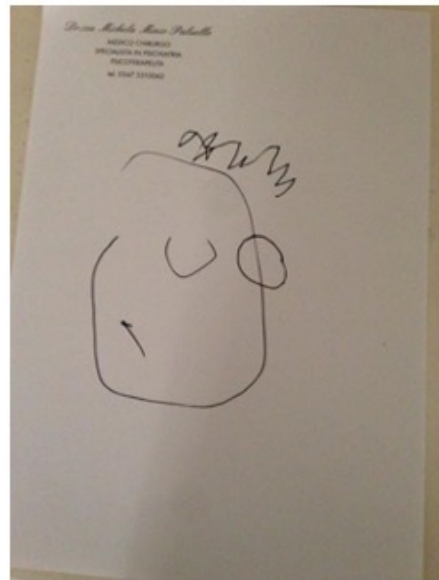
info@symbyxbiome.com

Ann Liebert, PhD

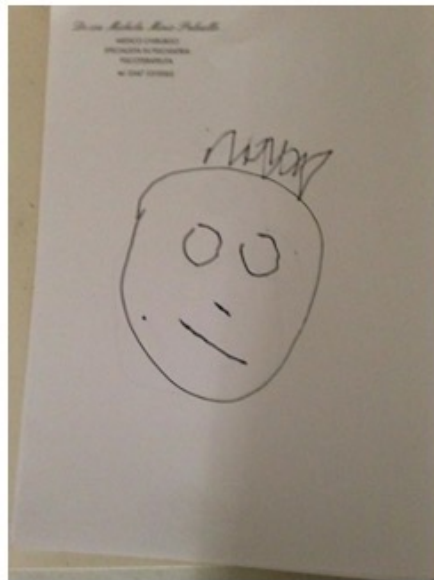


FIG. 1. The picture shows the handfield position of the Omnitonic New U device pressed against the left forehead of the child. Both the right (F4) and the left (F3) sides of the forehead were sequentially treated at each t-PBM session.

Transcranial Photobiomodulation: 8 year-old girl with Down Syndrome Treated both sides, F3 and F4



Baseline



14 days



28 days



after 2nd cycle

Sessions t-PBM



“draw my portrait (your doctor)”

Key Takeaways



- Red and near-infrared, low-level lasers or LEDs increase ATP in hypoxic/compromised cells; promote vasodilation of blood and lymphatic vessels; have anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant effects.
- In open studies, transcranial red/NIR LEDs showed improved cognition, reduced PTSD, depression, pain and improved sleep in chronic TBI, and athletes possibly developing CTE. Blast-TBI Veterans can develop CTE.
- In open studies, the tLEDs showed improved cognition in dementia. In progressive neurodegenerative disease - if improvements are present after initial series, further home treatments are appropriate.
- In Gulf War Illness cases, tLED home treatments are suggested.

Virtual Neurorehabilitation: LED Home-Based Program for Veterans with TBI and PTSD

Yelena Bogdanova, Ph.D., Ph.D.

26 August 2021

0855 – 0955 (ET)





LED TBI Treatment Program Development Support:

- **VA Rehabilitation Research & Development**
SPIRE Award, Principal Investigator: Y. Bogdanova
- **VHA Center for Compassionate Care Innovation (CCI)**
Clinical Demonstration Project, Clinical Lead: Y. Bogdanova
- **VHA Innovators Network**
SSS FY21 Health Care Accelerator Award
Project Lead: Y. Bogdanova
- **VA Boston HCS Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service**
Neurorehabilitation Program
Program Lead: Yelena Bogdanova, PhD, PhD

Learning Objectives



At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Describe Home-based LED TBI treatment for cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms post TBI.
2. Explain the therapeutic effect of LED on cognition, sleep, and PTSD symptoms in TBI.
3. Discuss the application of noninvasive neuromodulation (LED) in rehabilitation of TBI and PTSD.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Overview of a noninvasive neurorehabilitation treatment for TBI and commonly associated neuropsychiatric problems:
- Home-based TBI program, using noninvasive treatment modality, light emitting diodes (LED)
- Therapeutic effects of LED application on cognition, sleep, and PTSD
- Virtual Care LED TBI Home treatment program for TBI and PTSD
- Present the latest evidence and discuss how recent clinical research findings translate into current clinical practice.

Multimodal Neurorehabilitation for TBI & Neuropsychiatric Symptoms

Neurorehabilitation Program: Goals

- Provide comprehensive rehabilitation services & treatment options for ***cognitive (attention, executive function) and commonly associated neuropsychiatric (sleep, PTSD, mood) problems***
- Optimize patients' recovery
- Facilitate their successful return to work and community reintegration.

Multimodal Rehabilitation Approach:

- Most suitable for the patients with ***complex TBI, dual diagnoses, and multiple TBI-related symptoms***
- Targets both cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms
- Improves treatment adherence and promotes recovery in complex TBI

TBI Rehabilitation: Challenges

TBI-Associated Deficits Lead to:

- poor insight and lack of mental flexibility necessary to adapt to changes
- impoverished planning ability
- poor motivation and other self-regulation issues

Commonly Associated Neuropsychiatric Issues:

Post-TBI Sleep Disturbances:

- Associated with cognitive performance: sustained attention (Bloomfield et al., 2010) & working memory (Bogdanova et al., 2013)
- Independently predict poorer functional & social outcomes (Chan & Feinstein, 2015; Gilbert et al., 2015)
- Inhibit full participation in rehabilitation treatments (Worthington & Melia, 2006).

TBI/PTSD Comorbidity:

- Detrimental to cognitive functioning (Vasterling et al., 2009; Vasterling & Proctor, 2011; Polusny et al., 2011)
- Predictor of poor long-term outcome (Friedland & Dawson 2001; Moore et al., 2006; Ponsford et al., 2000)
- TBI/PTSD treatment is challenging, as traditional cognitive-behavioral PTSD therapy relies on EF (rev. in Bogdanova & Verfaellie, 2012)

- ***Improving cognitive and PTSD symptoms may help patients to make better recovery across other functional domains.***

MULTIMODAL NEUROREHABILITATION PROGRAM



**Cognitive
Training**

**Education-
focused**

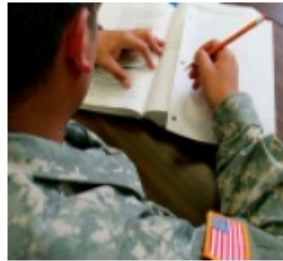
**Neuromodulation
Treatment**

**Combined
Interventions**

MULTIMODAL NEUROREHABILITATION PROGRAM

Multidisciplinary Assessment

Neurological, neuropsychological and/or neuropsychiatric evaluation



Relevant Program Modules

Treatment plan

**Executive Dysfunction,
Poor Concentration**



Cognitive Training

**Social Integration Issues,
Anger Problems**



Education-Focused Tx

**Sleep Disturbance,
PTSD Symptoms**



**Neuromodulation
Treatment**



NEUROMODULATION TREATMENT

Photobiomodulation (PBM) or Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Therapy

- LED is a non-invasive, portable, and relatively inexpensive treatment modality.
- LED is a painless, non-thermal neuromodulation treatment that directly targets cellular functioning of injured brain cells.
- ***Therapeutic Application of LEDs:***
 - Wound healing (Hopkins, McLoda, Seegmiller, Baxter, 2004; Kovacs, Mester, & Gorog, 1974)
 - Reduction of pain and inflammation in musculoskeletal / orthopedic application (Aimbire et al., 2006; Gam, Thorsen, & Lonnberg, 1993)
 - Mitigation of chemotherapy side effects (Zecha et al., 2016a, 2016b).
 - Psychiatric and neurologic disorders (including TBI), and rehabilitation (rev. in Hamblin et al, 2019; Hashmi et al., 2010).

LED TX: MECHANISM OF ACTION

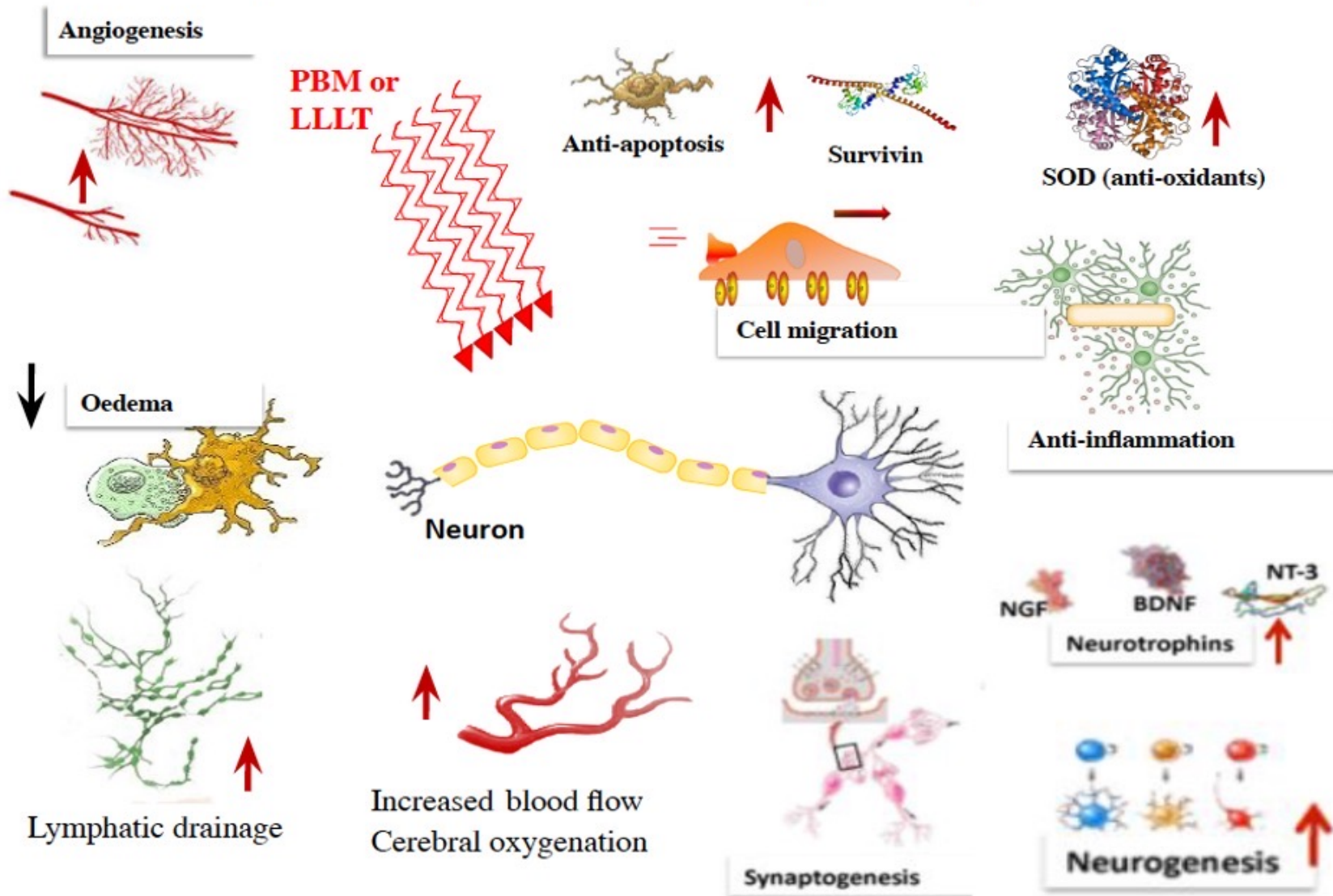
Red/Near-infrared (NIR) LED Therapy

- ***improves function of injured cells*** by promoting:
- increased adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP) production and
- increased focal cerebral blood flow (CBF)

Transcranial Red/NIR LED Treatment:

- improves compromised cellular activity of the brain tissue that has been damaged by TBI,
- which can promote recovery of the brain function and
- reduce symptoms in TBI and associated neuropsychiatric issues (sleep, depression, PTSD).

Multiple Mechanisms for PBM (LED Tx) in the Brain





LED TREATMENT APPLICATIONS

NEUROMODULATION: LED TX

Therapeutic Application of LED:

- **Neuropsychiatric Symptoms:**
depression, PTSD, sleep disturbance
(Cassano et al., 2015; Bogdanova et al., 2018)
- **Neurologic Disorders:**
TBI, dementia, Alzheimer's Disease
(Berman et al., 2017; Saltmarche et al., 2017; Chao, 2019)
- **Stroke and Rehabilitation**
(Chan et al., 2018; Hamblin, 2018; Hashmi et al., 2010; Naeser et al., 2020)



NEUROMODULATION: LED TX

Therapeutic Application of LED in Chronic TBI:

- **Cognitive Sx** (executive function & verbal memory) in chronic TBI
(Naeser et al., 2011, 2014; Bogdanova et al., 2017; Hipskind et al., 2019)
- **Mood and PTSD** symptomatology in mild-moderate chronic TBI
(Naeser et al., 2011, 2014; Bogdanova et al., 2019)
- **Sleep** in patients with mild-moderate chronic TBI
(Bogdanova et al., 2014, 2018)

Neuroimaging:

- **fMRI** has shown modulation of activation in intrinsic brain networks likely to be affected in TBI (default mode network and salience network). (Naeser et al., 2019; Longo et al., 2020; rev. in Hamblin, 2018).





LED TREATMENT FOR CHRONIC TBI

VA Boston HCS

LED TX FOR CHRONIC TBI: PILOT Randomized Clinical Trial (RCT)

Objective:

- To evaluate effect of LED Tx on cognition and sleep in Veterans with chronic mTBI

Study Design:

- **Randomized, double-blind, sham-controlled pilot trial**
- Participants were randomized into two groups: Active LED (G1) or Sham LED (G2, control) Tx
- All study participants underwent:
 - Baseline assessment
 - **LED treatment (16 sessions, 2 times/week for 8 weeks)**
 - Post-intervention assessment, 1week post-LED treatment
- All participants were administered standardized neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric measures.
- LED Tx were conducted in-office, using NIR LED helmets and Red/NIR intranasal clips.

Funded by the VA Rehabilitation Research & Development, SPIRE Award

LED TBI PILOT RCT: Study Participants

Participants:

- Veterans with mTBI (medical records, clinical evaluation)
- With chronic cognitive dysfunction (at least 2 SD below average on one, or 1 SD below average on at least two neuropsychological tests of executive function and memory)
- Divided into two groups using a blocked randomization procedure:
Active LED or Sham Tx
- Groups matched on demographic & neuropsychiatric characteristics:
Age, WTAR, BDI-II, PCL-M (all *ps*: non-sig)

Inclusion Criteria:

- Ages 21-55
- Report TBI during deployment
- Meet ACRM criteria for mild TBI
- Chronic cognitive dysfunction (see above)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Evidence of penetrating head injury
- Intracranial surgical intervention
- Other CNS complications or neurological illness
- Evidence of malingering (TOMM Trial 2 or Retention < 45/50)

LED TBI PILOT RCT: Methods

Transcranial LED TX:

- Non-invasive, painless, non-thermal neuromodulation Tx
- Directly targets cellular functioning of injured & hypoxic brain cells
- Red/NIR photons increase ATP production and increase rCBF

Study Tx Schedule:

- Administered as a series of 16 sessions (2x/week for 8 weeks)
- LED Tx sessions were conducted in-office, with NIR LED helmets and Red/NIR intranasal clips
- Sham Tx: Identical Sham LED Helmet and Intranasal LEDs were designed for this study.



NIR LED Helmet



NIR Intranasal (shown) and
Red Intranasal LED diodes

LED TBI PILOT RCT: TREATMENT OUTCOME

Improvement on Measures of Attention & Executive Fx Post-LED Tx in Active Tx Group

- The Active LED treatment group (G1) showed significant improvements on standardized measures of attention ($p<0.03$) and executive function ($p<0.05$).
- No significant changes in the Sham control group (G2) [all $ps>0.21$].

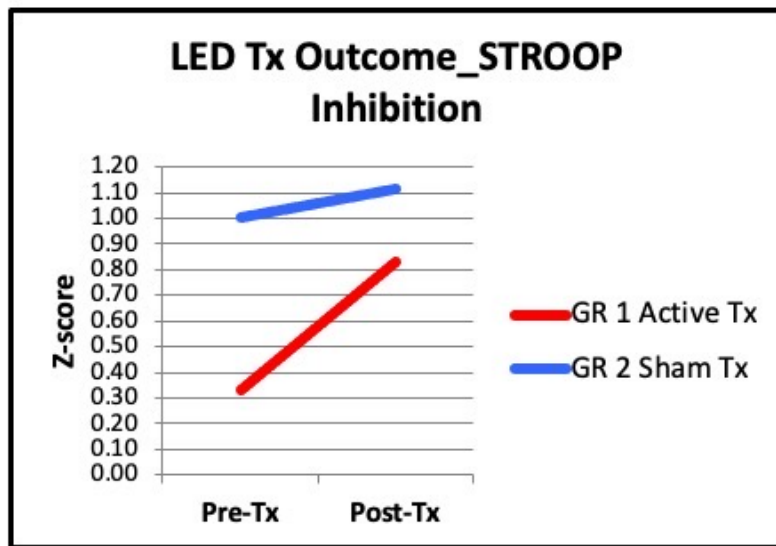


Figure 1.

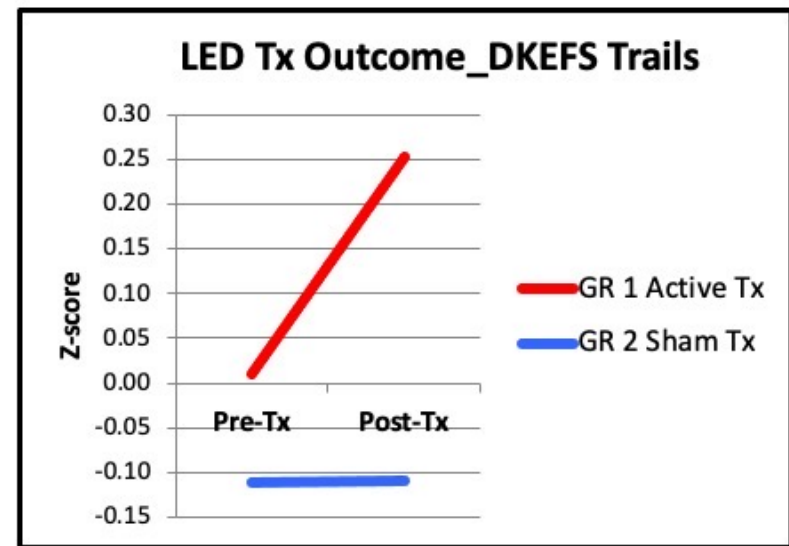


Figure 2.

LED TBI PILOT RCT: TREATMENT OUTCOME

Significant Improvement in Sleep Quality Post-LED Treatment in Active Tx Group

- The active LED treatment group (G1) demonstrated a significant reduction in self-reported sleep problems (PSQI) [$p<0.05$]. (Fig. 3 and 4)
- No significant changes in the Sham LED control group (G2) [$p=0.11$].

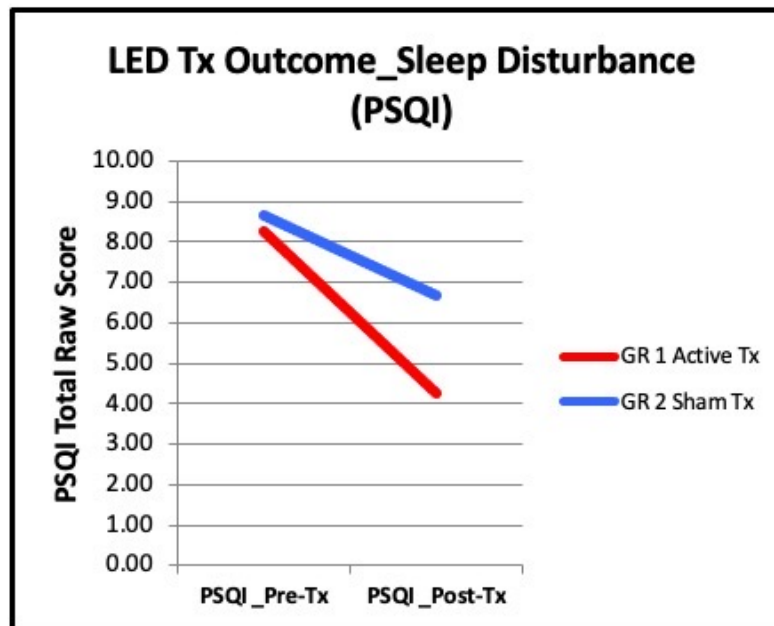


Figure 3. Changes in Sleep Quality Post-LED Treatment in Active (G1) and Sham (G2) Tx Groups.

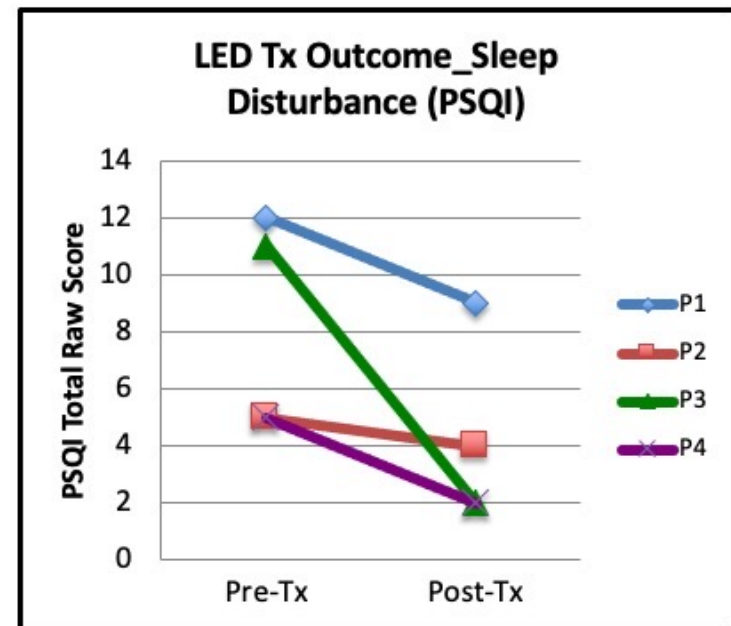


Figure 4. Improvement in Sleep Quality Post-LED Treatment in Active Tx Group.

LED TBI PILOT RCT: SUMMARY

- Preliminary results from this pilot clinical trial showed that transcranial LED treatment improves cognition (attention and executive function) and sleep quality in Veterans with chronic mTBI.
- Our findings suggest that this novel, noninvasive, non-pharmacologic therapeutic approach has potential to reduce persistent cognitive symptoms and associated neuropsychiatric symptoms (sleep disturbance) in chronic TBI.
- These findings provide evidence that eight-week active treatment of chronic mTBI with transcranial LEDs is safe and effective, as compared to sham LED.



LED TBI HOME TREATMENT PROGRAM

The LED TBI Home Treatment Clinical Demonstration Project

supported by the VHA Center for Compassionate Care Innovation (CCI)

LED TBI CLINIC

VA Boston HCS Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service, VA Boston HCS.

LED Providers:

Yelena Bogdanova, PhD, PhD (Clinical Neuropsychologist & Program Lead)

Karina Gilbert, PhD (Clinical Psychologist)

Program Support:

Program Coordinator

MSA

LED TBI HOME TX PROGRAM

12-week Home Tx Program, with tele-health support

- For Veterans with chronic TBI and related neuropsychiatric symptoms (PTSD, depression, sleep disturbance)
- LED Home Tx: **3xWeek, 25 minutes**, using NIR LED headset and red/NIR intranasal clips.

LED TBI Clinic Services:

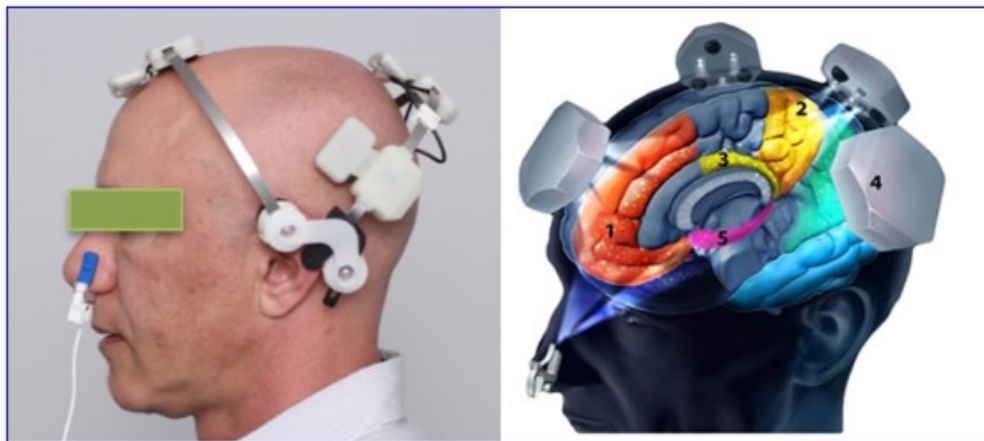
- Clinical evaluation
- Individualized treatment plan
- LED Home treatment education and training
- In-office initial LED treatment
- LED device issue & maintenance
- Telehealth home treatment monitoring and support
- Follow-up evals (6 weeks, 12 weeks, 6 months)

LED TBI HOME TX PROGRAM

LED TBI Home Tx Clinical Protocol:

- Each Veteran's is issued a personal LED device
- Patients are trained to properly use and clean the LED device at home by the LED Provider
- LED Tx is administered at home by a patient once a day, 3 days/Wk (every-other-day)
- Patients are asked to complete a simple Tx Log
- Clinic provider calls the patient (weekly) to assure adherence to the LED Home Tx protocol
- Follow up visits are scheduled by clinic staff: virtual and/or in person [pre-pandemic]

LED Tx Schedule: 12 weeks, 3 times/Week, (25 min)



(A) **Transcranial NeuroAlpha LED device.** The LED cluster heads are placed on four placement areas on the head, designed to treat the Default Mode Network (DMN).

(B) **Targeted DMN nodes:** (1) Mesial prefrontal cortex, (2) Precuneus, (3) Posterior cingulate cortex, (4) Inferior parietal lobe, and (5) Hippocampus. (Protocol developed by Naeser et al., 2018; Bogdanova et al., 2018)

LED TBI HOME TX: CLINICAL DEMONSTRATION

Program Objectives:

- To evaluate effectiveness of transcranial light-emitting diode (LED) home-based treatment program for the Veterans with chronic mild to moderate TBI and PTSD.

Design: Clinical Program Evaluation, Case Series

- All patients underwent:
 - Baseline assessment
 - LED Treatment at home (**3xWk for 12 Wks**)
 - Post- intervention assessment immediately after 12 Wks of LED treatment
 - All patients were administered standardized neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric measures.
- All patients received Telehealth home treatment monitoring and support:
 - Weekly virtual visits (first 12 weeks)
 - Monthly virtual visits (Long-term Tx, 12 months+)

LED TBI Home Tx Program

Participants:

- Veterans with m-mod TBI (medical records, clinical evaluation)
- Suffering persistent TBI symptoms for six months or greater
- Who have not had success with other evidence-based treatments for TBI
- Participants endorsed persistent cognitive dysfunction (attention, executive function, memory) and neuropsychiatric symptoms (sleep disturbance, PTSD, mood)

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age 21-70
- History of mild-moderate TBI
- Persistent cognitive dysfunction (see above)

Exclusion Criteria:

- Evidence of penetrating head injury
- Intracranial surgical intervention
- Other CNS complications or neurological illness
- Active substance abuse

LED TBI HOME TX: CLINICAL DEMONSTRATION

Outcome Measures:

All patients were administered a series of standardized neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric measures.

Neuropsychological Measures:

- *Attention/Executive Function*: DKEFS Trails 2 and Trails 4; DKEFS Stroop*
- *Memory*: California Verbal Learning Test-II* (alternating versions)

Neuropsychiatric Measures:

- PTSD Checklist (PCL-5)*
- Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)
- Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI)*
- Neurobehavioral Symptom Inventory (NSI)

Daily Functioning Measures:

- Attention Rating and Monitoring Scale (ARMS)
- Prospective-Retrospective Memory Quest. (PRMQ)

* Primary Outcome measures

LED TBI HOME TREATMENT OUTCOME

Post 12Wk LED Home Tx Program:

- All patients demonstrated ***significant improvement*** in at least two functional domains:
 - Cognitive (attention, executive function, learning)
 - Mood/PTSD
 - Daily Functioning
 - Neurobehavioral Symptoms
- No adverse effects were reported

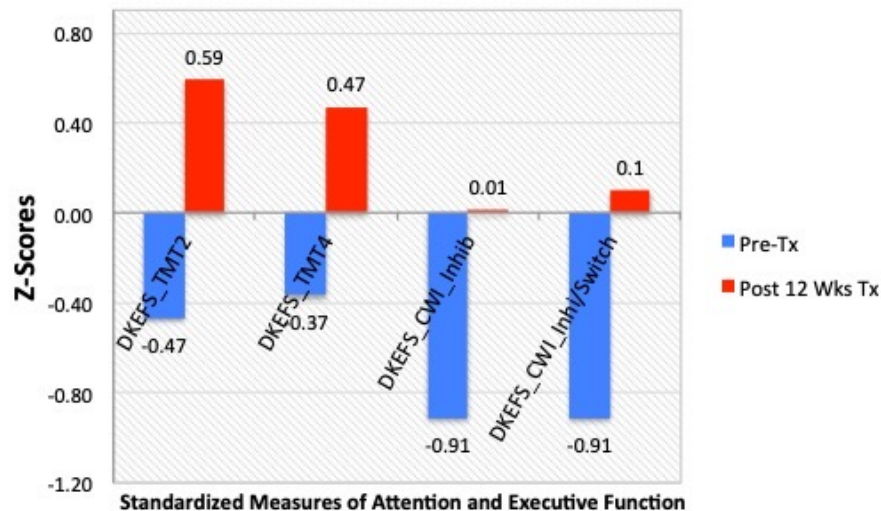


LED TBI HOME TREATMENT OUTCOME

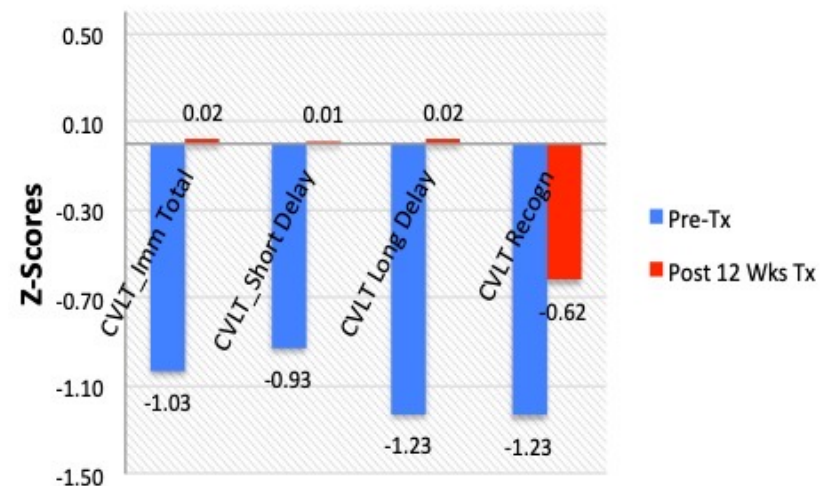
Improvement in Cognitive Function Post-LED Tx

- Patients showed significant improvement on the standardized measures of attention, executive function (all $ps < 0.001$) and memory ($ps < 0.01$).

LED TBI Home Tx Outcome: Attention & Executive Fx Post 12 Wks of Tx (n=30)

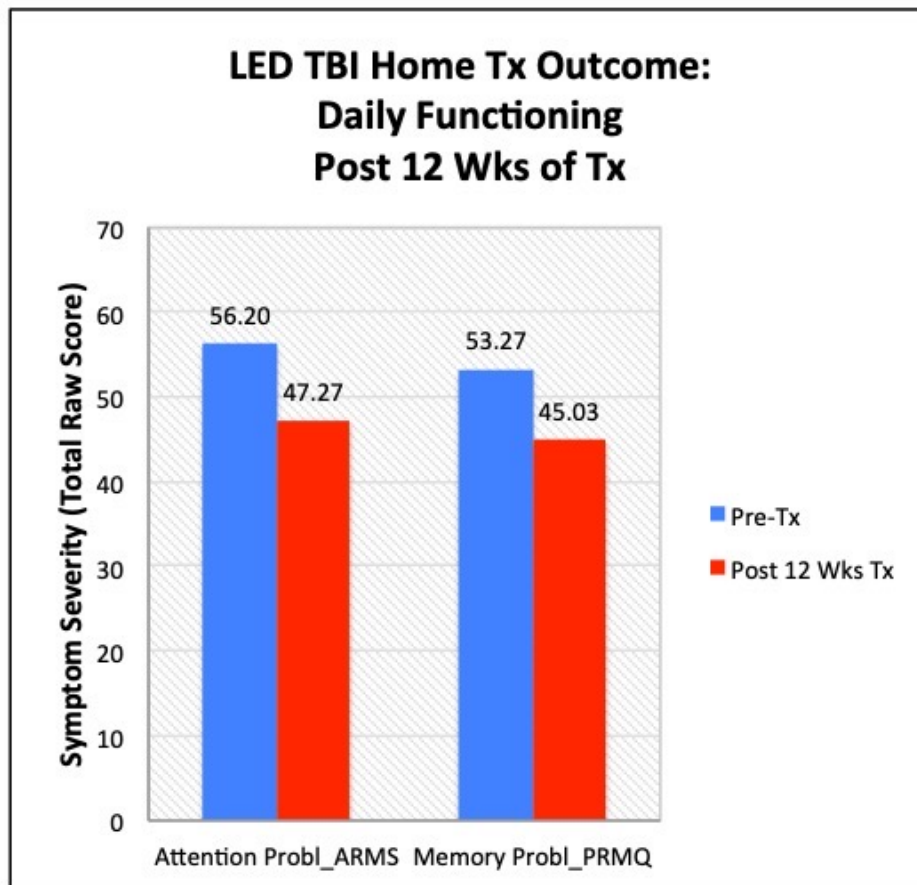


LED TBI Home Tx Outcome: Memory (CVLT-II) Post 12 Wks of Tx (n=30)



LED TBI HOME TREATMENT OUTCOME

Improvement in Daily Function Post-LED Tx



The Veterans showed significant improvement in Daily Cognitive Function post 12 Wks of LED Home:

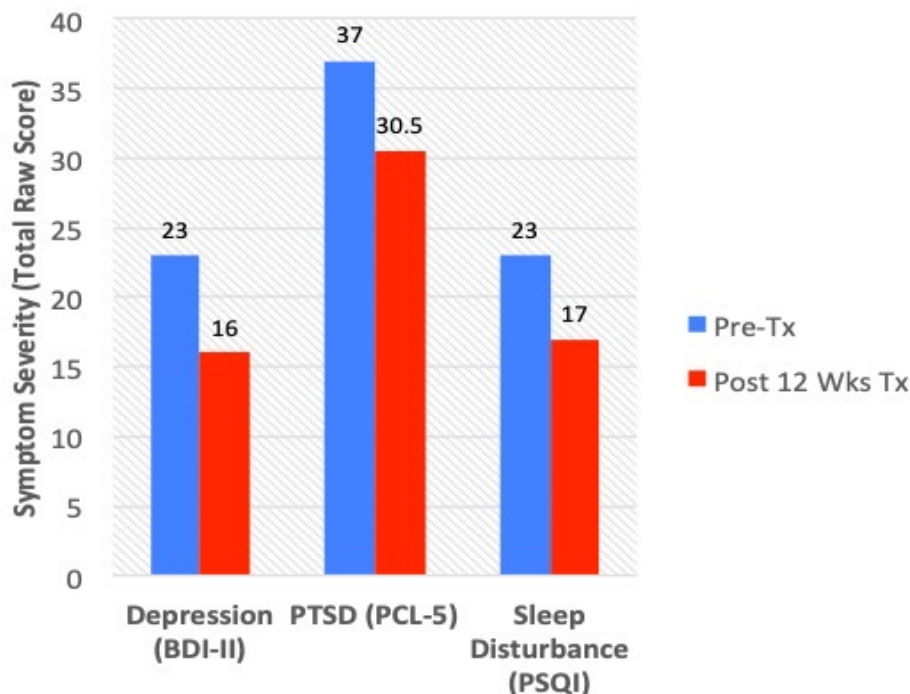
- Attention Rating and Monitoring Scale (ARMS) ($p < 0.001$) and
- Prospective-Retrospective Memory Questionnaire (PRMQ) ($p < 0.001$).

TREATMENT OUTCOME (Cont.)

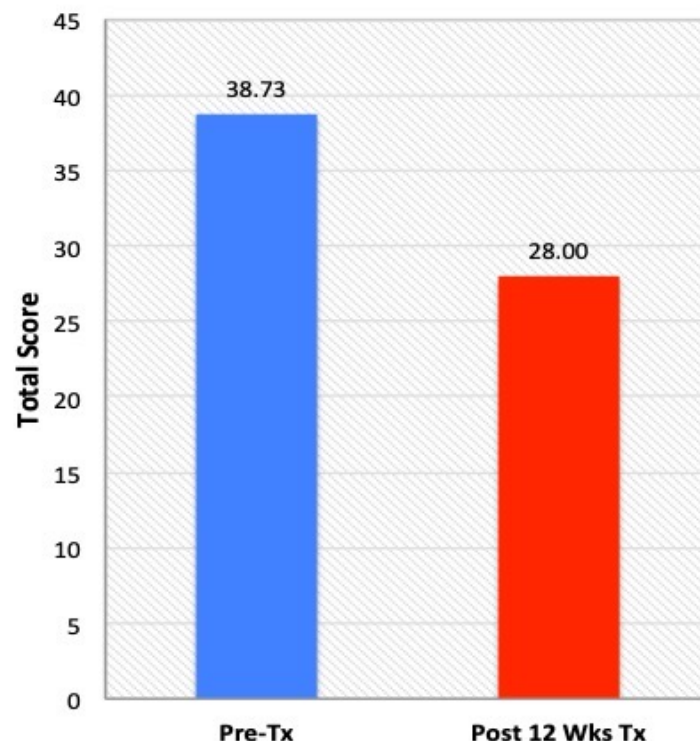
Improvement in Neuropsychiatric Symptoms Post-LED Tx

- Post-12 Wks of LED Home Tx, patients showed: significant symptom reduction on measures of depression (BDI-II) [$p<0.001$], PTSD (PCL-5) [$p<0.01$], and sleep (PSQI) [$p<0.001$].
- Significant reduction in neurobehavioral symptoms (NSI) [$p<0.001$].

**LED TBI Home Treatment Outcome:
Reduced Symptoms
Post 12 Weeks of LED Treatment**



**Neurobehavioral Symptoms Inventory
Post 12 Wks of Tx**



CONCLUSIONS

- The results of this clinical program evaluation showed that transcranial LED Home Treatment improves cognitive (attention, executive function, learning/memory) and neuropsychiatric symptoms (mood, PTSD, sleep) in Veterans with chronic mild-moderate TBI.
- Our findings suggest that this noninvasive, non-pharmacologic, LED home treatment with tele-health support improves daily function and neurobehavioral symptoms in chronic TBI.
- These findings provide additional evidence that twelve-week home-based treatment of chronic mild-moderate TBI with transcranial LEDs is safe and effective for clinical use.

Transcranial LED Therapy for TBI & PTSD



NIR LED Headset and Intranasal clip

Effective
Safe
Non-invasive

Painless
Portable
Cost-effective



Red/near-infrared (NIR) LED therapy directly targets cellular functioning of injured brain cells



Red/NIR LED Tx improves function of injured cells by promoting increased ATP production and release of nitric oxide.

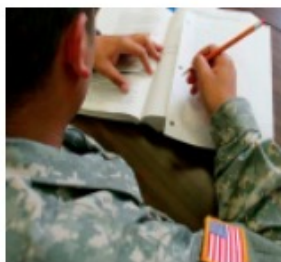


Nitric oxide release promotes focal vasodilation and increases focal cerebral blood flow.

MULTIMODAL NEUROREHABILITATION PROGRAM

Multidisciplinary Assessment

Neurological, neuropsychological and/or neuropsychiatric evaluation



Relevant Program Modules

Treatment plan

**Executive Dysfunction,
Poor Concentration**



Cognitive Training:

- Improves ability to focus, to complete tasks
- Improves organizational skills

LED TBI Home Treatment Program

- Improves focus and concentration

**Social Integration Issues,
Anger Problems**



Education-focused Training & Support

- Education & management of symptoms
- Effective communication training, social skills
- Targeted behavioral treatment, social support

**Sleep Disturbance,
PTSD Symptoms**



Education-focused Treatment & MH Support

- Symptom education and management
- Sleep hygiene component, PTSD Sx reduction

LED TBI Home Treatment Program

- LED Tx of Sleep and PTSD symptoms

LED TBI PROGRAM: Sustainability

1 Year after the start of the LED TBI Program:

- Polytrauma patient weighted work (PWW) **more than doubled** over FY18 (104%)
- Sustainability **improved to 85%** [sustainable]

During 2nd Year (FY19) PWW increased:

- **170%** compared to FY17
- **32%** year-over-year

*The VABHS LED TBI program is considered **fiscally feasible and replicable** at other VA facilities.*

(LED Treatment for TBI, *Advisory Council Report*, 2020)



VIRTUAL CARE LED TBI PROGRAM

Year 3: Transition to Virtual Care:

- Deliver clinical care via VA Video Connect (VVC) to:
 - Reduce the burden of travel for Veterans with TBI
 - Improve Tx accessibility for Veterans with limited mobility, living in remote areas
- Accept referrals from VA facilities across the US

The VABHS LED Virtual Care Program:

- Provides continuous care during public health emergency (COVID-19)
- Provides safe access to TBI treatment for patients at higher risk for serious illness

Since the Start of the Pandemic:

- Deliver continuous virtual care to more than 80 Veterans already enrolled in Home Tx Program
- Provide LED TBI Home treatment for the out-of-state Veterans

Virtual Care LED TBI Program development is supported by the VHA CCI and VHA Innovation Network.

LED TBI Home Tx Program: Key Takeaways



- The results from the LED pilot RCT¹ and LED clinical program evaluation² showed that transcranial **LED Home Tx improves cognitive** (attention, executive function, learning/memory) **and neuropsychiatric symptoms** (mood, PTSD, sleep) in patients with chronic mild-moderate TBI.
- These results suggest that noninvasive, non-pharmacologic LED Home treatment with tele-health support **improves daily function and neurobehavioral symptoms in chronic TBI**¹⁻³.
- The LED TBI Home Tx Program, converted to Virtual Care following the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, demonstrated higher treatment adherence and lower dropout rates, as compared to the standard In-office LED treatment⁴.
- These results provide evidence that twelve-week home-based treatment of chronic mild-moderate TBI with transcranial LEDs is safe and effective for clinical use.

1. (Bogdanova Y. et al. 2017)

2. (Bogdanova Y. et al., 2019)

3. (Martin P. et al., 2018)

4. (Bogdanova Y. et al, 2020)

Future Directions

- Development of multimodal treatment programs to address multiple comorbidities (such as TBI, PTSD, mood, and sleep problems)
- Using advance neuromodulation techniques to enhance the treatment and promote recovery in TBI and TBI/PTSD
- Promote interdisciplinary collaborations to further the development of combination treatments
- Clinical trials to further evaluate efficacy of novel neurorehabilitation treatments for TBI and PTSD
- Identify biomarkers/predictors of successful recovery and Tx outcome using:
 - Neuroimaging
 - Electrophysiological measures
 - Advanced neuroscience techniques

Thank You!

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