

Abstract:

Low-intensity extracorporeal shockwave treatment was first introduced in Taiwan in 1998. Currently, there are 21 different ESWT devices from 11 countries used in Taiwan. ESWT is conducted for several medical conditions, including orthopedics, urology, cardiology, and rehabilitation. The indications include tendinitis calcarea, epicondylitis, plantar fasciitis, and pseudarthrosis for orthopedic and rehabilitation purposes; erectile dysfunction, chronic pelvic pain syndromes, overactive bladder, and interstitial cystitis in the field of urology; and refractory coronary artery disease in the field of cardiology. There is no medical law for ESWT, and there are no legal regulations or restrictions on performing ESWT in Taiwan. However, ESWT can only be performed based on a physician's diagnosis and prescription, and the devices can only be operated by medical physicians or physical therapists. The national health insurance does not reimburse ESWT, and only a few private health insurance plans cover ESWT in Taiwan. The average cost for 1000 shocks will be around 70 USD. In this session, we will also show you the current status of basic and clinical research associated with ESWT in Taiwan.