

SNS COLLEGE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

Affiliated To The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai
Coimbatore – 641035

COURSE NAME : ELECTROTHERAPY

SUBJECT CODE : 6282

TOPIC Production of Short Wave

(Short Wave Diathermy – SWD)

Definition

Production of Short Wave

Short wave diathermy (SWD) is a therapeutic modality that produces high-frequency electromagnetic waves. These waves generate deep heating in body tissues.

Frequency used: 27.12 MHz (medical standard).

Heat is produced due to oscillation of ions and dipole rotation within tissues.

Used mainly for pain relief, muscle relaxation, and improved circulation

Empathize

Patients with chronic pain, muscle spasm, stiffness often need deep heating

Superficial heat modalities may not reach deeper tissues effectively

SWD helps patients who:

Have joint stiffness

Suffer from musculoskeletal injuries

Need non-invasive pain management

Therapist empathy ensures:

Proper dosage

Patient comfort

Safety and effectiveness

Ideate

Idea behind SWD:

Deliver deep, uniform heat without direct skin contact

Advantages:

Reaches muscles, ligaments, and joints

Covers large treatment areas

Helps in:

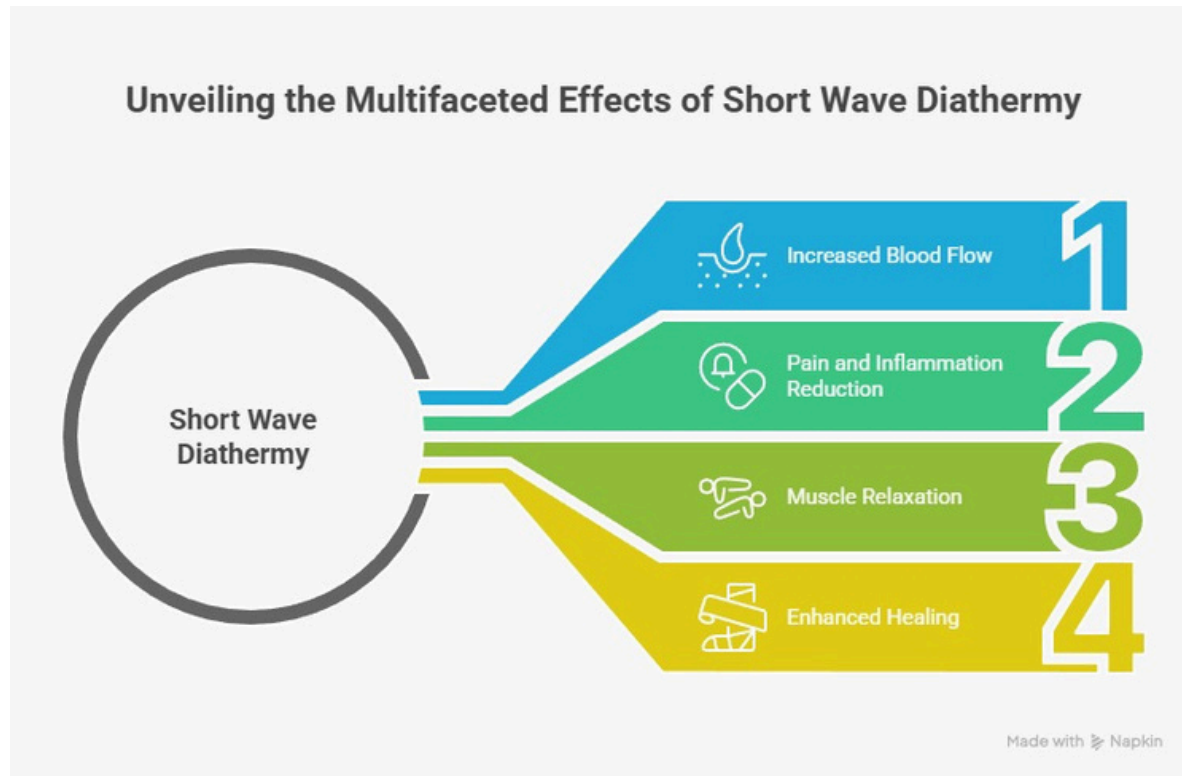
Increasing blood flow

Reducing pain

Improving tissue extensibility

Innovative use in rehabilitation and sports physiotherapy

Flow Chart



Techniques and Methods of Production

Two main techniques:

Capacitor (Condenser) Field Method

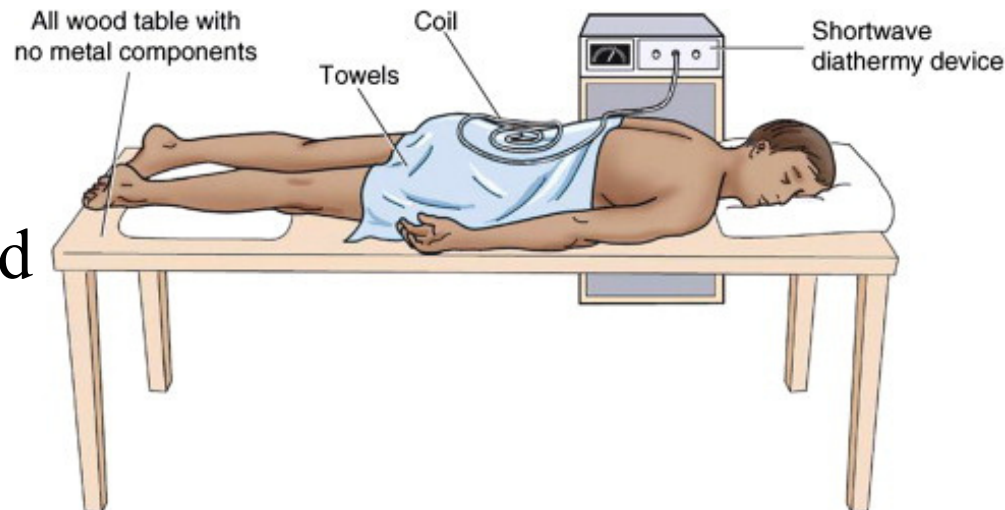
Inductor Field Method

Selection depends on:

Treatment area

Tissue type

Depth of heating required



Capacitor Field Method

Patient's body acts as a dielectric medium.

Two electrodes placed on either side of the body part.

Electric field passes through tissues.

Heat production is greater in:

Tissues with low conductivity (fat, skin)

Used commonly for superficial and moderately deep tissues.

Condenser (Capacitor) Explained

Condenser consists of:

Two metal plates

Insulating material in between

In SWD:

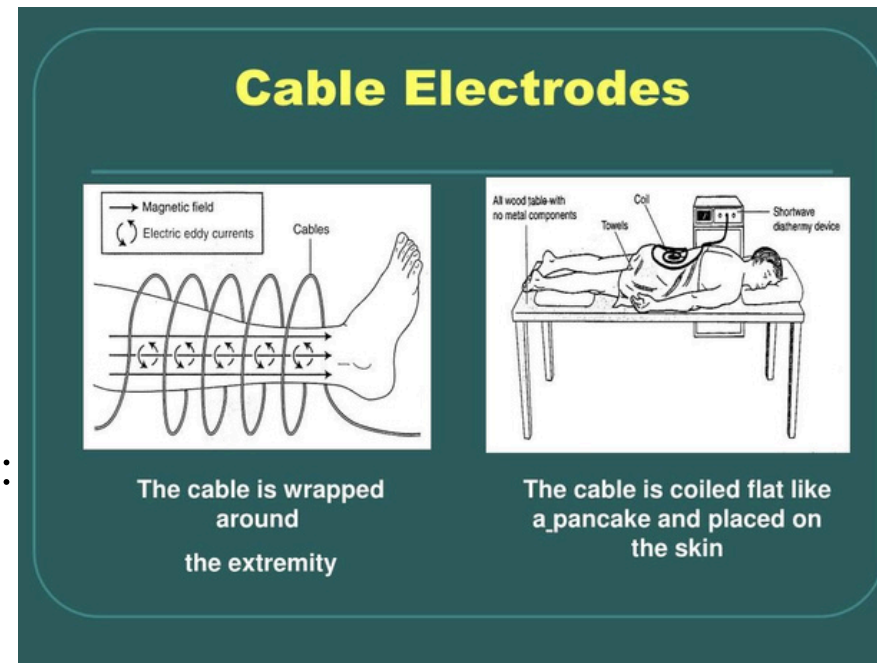
Electrodes act as condenser plates

Body tissues act as dielectric

Proper spacing and insulation are important to:

Avoid burns

Ensure uniform heating



In class assessment

1. Define short wave diathermy.
2. What is the standard frequency used in SWD?
3. Explain the principle of production of short waves.
4. List two advantages of short wave diathermy.
5. Name the two main techniques of SWD.

In class assessment

1. What is the capacitor field method?
2. Which tissues heat more in the capacitor method and why?
3. What is meant by condenser in SWD?
4. Mention two safety precautions during SWD.
5. Differentiate briefly between capacitor and inductor field methods.

Thank you

