

DIATHERMY

Definition: Diathermy is the treatment process by which cutting, coagulation of tissues are obtained.

- Application of high-frequency electromagnetic energy
- Used to generate heat in body tissues
- Heat produced by resistance of tissues
- Also used for non-thermal effects

Types of diathermy

- Shortwave diathermy
- Ultrasonic diathermy
- Microwave diathermy
- Surgical diathermy

Physiologic Responses to Diathermy

- Not capable of producing depolarization and contraction of muscles
- Wavelengths too short
- Physiologic Effects Are Those of Heat In General
- Tissue temperature increase
- Increased blood flow (vasodilatation)
- Increased venous and lymphatic flow
- Changes in physical properties of tissues

- Muscle relaxation
- Analgesia
- Diathermy is the treatment process by which cutting, coagulation of tissues are obtained.
- Diathermy is a form of treatment in physical therapy that uses electromagnetic current at high frequencies and low frequencies.
- High-frequencies of heat tissues located at different depths.
- Low frequencies heat is typically used to relieve a patient from muscle pain and repair of tissues that suffered from lesions (wound or injury).
- Diathermy treatment is generally painless and the target is to recover the damaged tissue with heat to relax the tight tissue, to increase the blood flow, and reduce swelling
- This form of thermal therapy is typically used to treat muscle spasms or tension, stiff joints and muscle joint.
- Used to generate heat in body tissues

Advantages:

- Treatment can be controlled easily.
- Use of appropriate electrodes permit the heat to be localized only in the region to be treated.
- Amount of heat that is to be delivered can be adjusted accurately.
- Inter lying tissues, muscles, bones, internal organs, etc, can be provided with heat by using high frequency