

# LEG QUADRICEPS NEUROMUSCULAR ELECTROSTIMULATION: NEW THERAPEUTICAL PHYSICAL TRAINING OPTION IN HAEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

V. Esteve, J. Carneiro, F. Moreno, M. Fulquet, M. Pou, A. Saurina, V. Duarte, M. Ramírez de Arellano  
 Servei de Nefrologia. Hospital de Terrassa. Consorci Sanitari Terrassa. Barcelona

## BACKGROUND

•Haemodialysis (HD) patients are characterized by great muscle wasting, decreased physical function and poor quality of life.

•Recently, neuromuscular electrostimulation (EMS) results in great interest as adjunctive treatment of regular exercise in HD patients.

•Until date, scarce studies about the exclusive role of EMS in HD patients have been published.

## OBJECTIVES

To analyze the effect of an intradialysis quadriceps EMS training program in muscular strength, functional capacity and quality of life as well as efficacy, safety and tolerability in our HD patients.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

- A 12 weeks single-center prospective study.
- HD patients were assigned into EMS training program (EMS) or control group (C).
- An adaptative EMS program was performed using the Compex® Theta 500i device in both quadriceps muscles in the first two hours of HD session.
- C group received standard HD care.
- Analyzed data:
  - 1.- Muscular data:
    - Transversal Quadriceps Muscular Area (TQMA)
    - Maximum Length Quadriceps Strength (MLQS)
    - Hand-grip dominant arm (HG).
  - 2.-Functional capacity tests:
    - "Sit to stand to sit" (STS10)
    - "six-minutes walking test"(6MWT).
  - 3.-Health questionnaire: EuroQoL-5D(EQ-5D).
  - 4.-Satisfaction degree:
    - Visual Analogic Scale (VAS),
    - Subjective Rating Scale (SRS)
    - Own symptoms EMS questionnaire (SEQ)

## RESULTADOS

### DEMOGRAPHICAL DATA

**ESRD HD patients: 63 patients**  
**Included patients: 38patients (54% men)**  
**Mean age: 69.7± 18.4 years**  
**Time on HD treatment: 32.1 months**  
**22 EMS group / 16 C group**

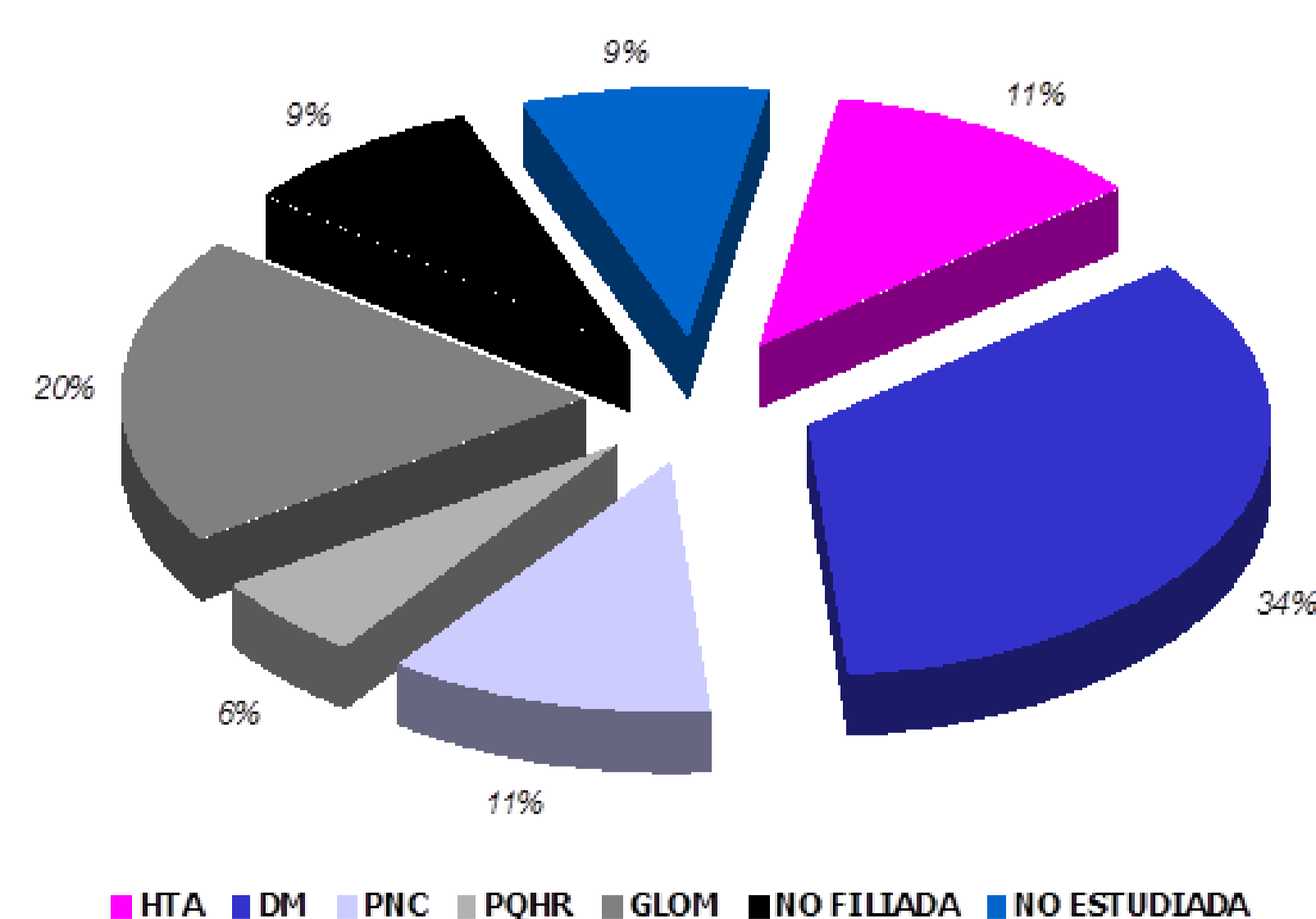


Figure 1.- Main EMS patients on HD (%) ESRD aetiology

### BASELINE DEMOGRAPHICAL DATA

	EENM (22 pacientes)	CONTROL (16pacientes)
EDAD	67.9 ± 17.5	72.5 ± 10.03
I.CHARLSON	9.04 ± 2.27	8.7 ± 1.66
TIEMPO HD	35.5 ± 46.8	27.1 ± 21.5
IMC	25.6 ± 3.29	27.2 ± 4.37

"No differences between groups regarding demographical data were found at baseline study"

Table 1.- Main baseline demographical data and comorbidities in our HD patients

### MUSCULAR DATA

	Grupo EMS ( 22 pacientes)			Grupo CONTROL (16 pacientes)		
	INICIO	FINAL	p. est	INICIO	FINAL	p. est
Tono Quad D	49.3 ± 5.7	49.02 ± 4.2	0.667	50.1 ± 5.7	49.8 ± 5.8	0.769
Tono Quad I	49.3 ± 4.9	48.9 ± 4.5	0.485	50.3 ± 5.35	50.3 ± 5.3	0.926
Plegue Quad D	36.3 ± 12.2	30.2 ± 11.4	0.004	31.3 ± 12.5	29.4 ± 12.4	0.261
Plegue Quad I	36 ± 11.8	30.7 ± 10.8	0.038	31.9 ± 14	28.6 ± 12.3	0.133
Area tras. Quad D	441.2 ± 372	334.8 ± 281.1	0.143	297.2 ± 399	358.9 ± 345.7	0.282
Area tras. Quad I	425.2 ± 383.5	366.9 ± 297.1	0.512	332.5 ± 420.4	240.09 ± 101.80	0.218

Figure 1.- Main Anthropometrical data: Differences between groups during the study. Muscular Tone (cm), Quadriceps skinfold (mm) and Transversal Quadriceps Muscular Area (TQMA)

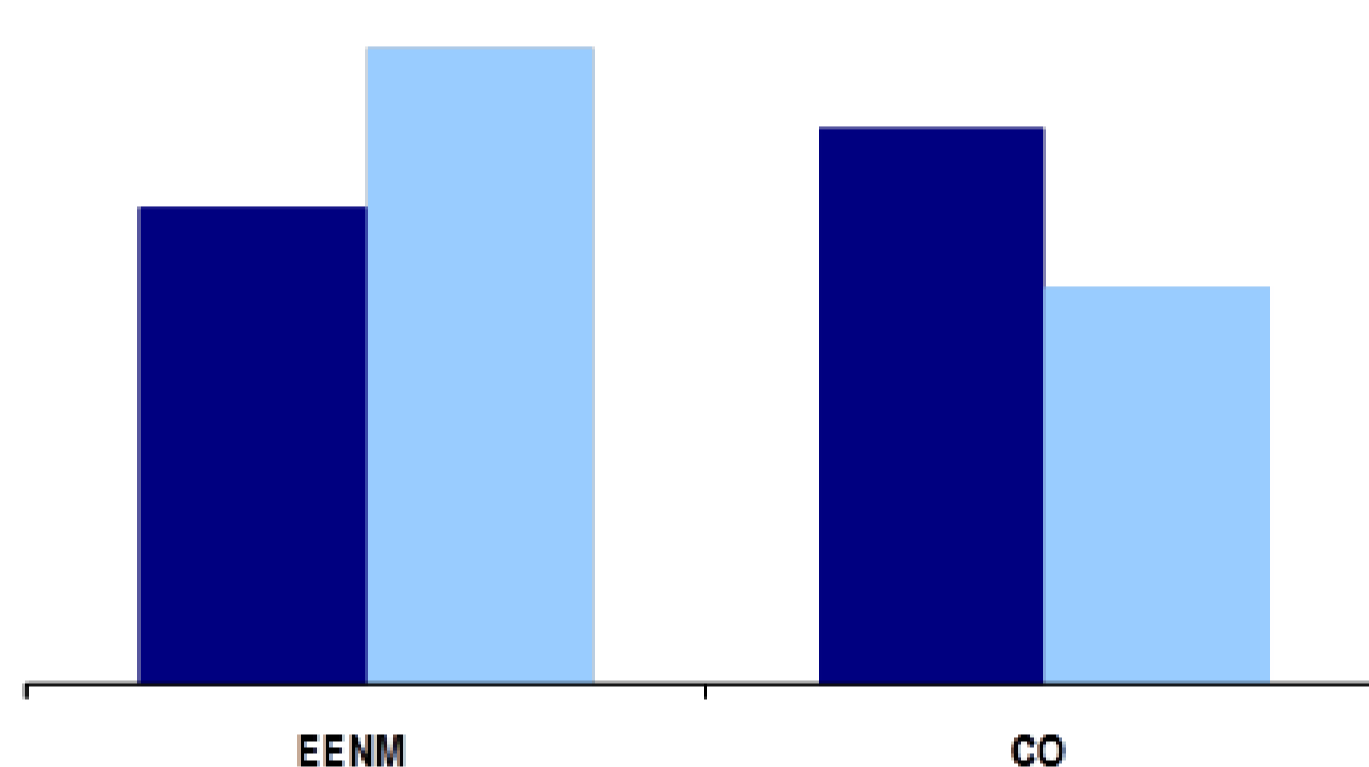


Figure 2.- Hand Grip Dominant Arm (HG). Differences between groups during the study

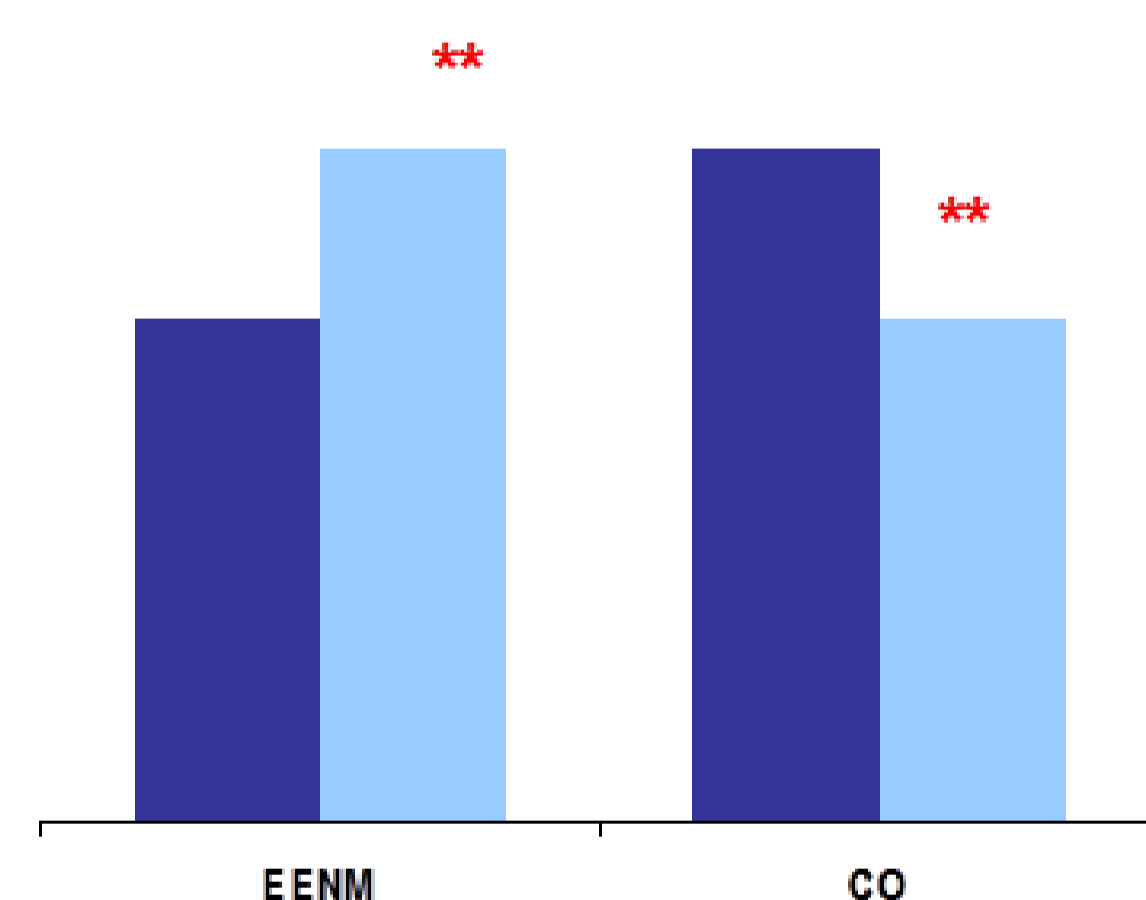


Figure 3.- Maximum Length Quadriceps Strength (MLQS). Differences between groups during the study

### EQ -5D HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

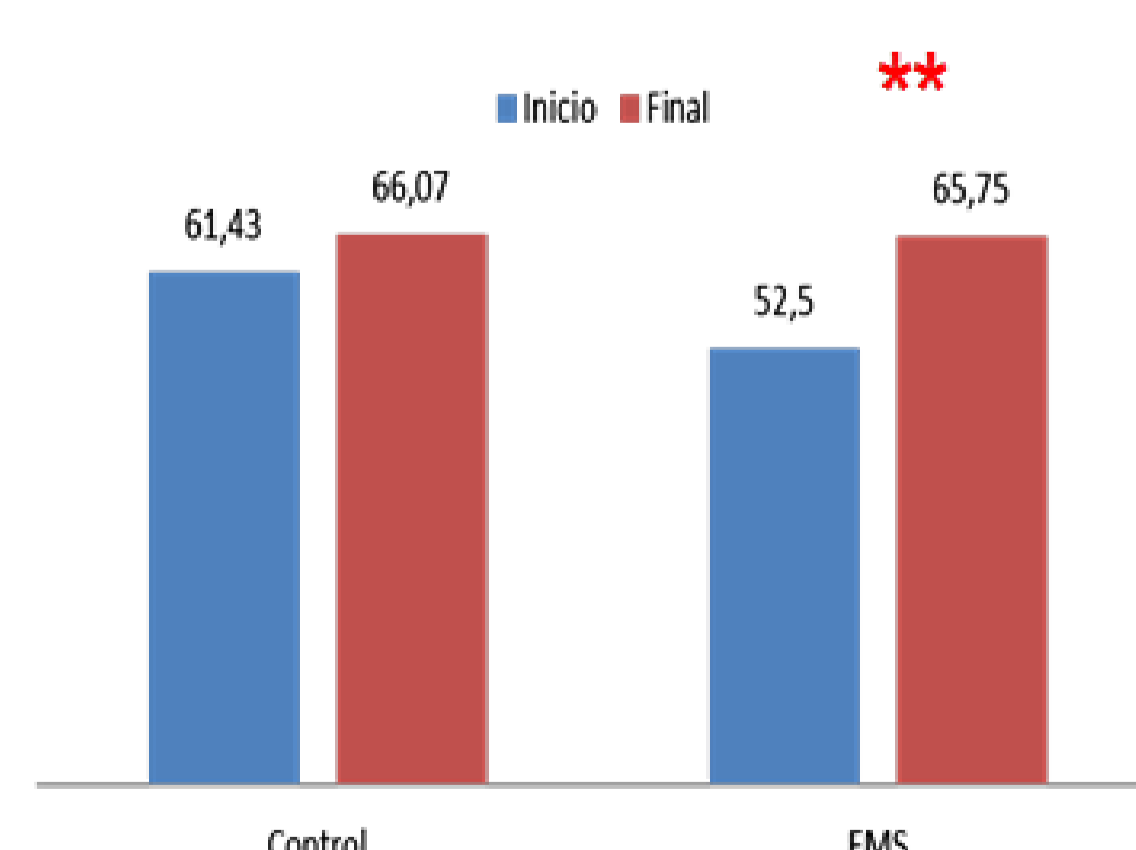
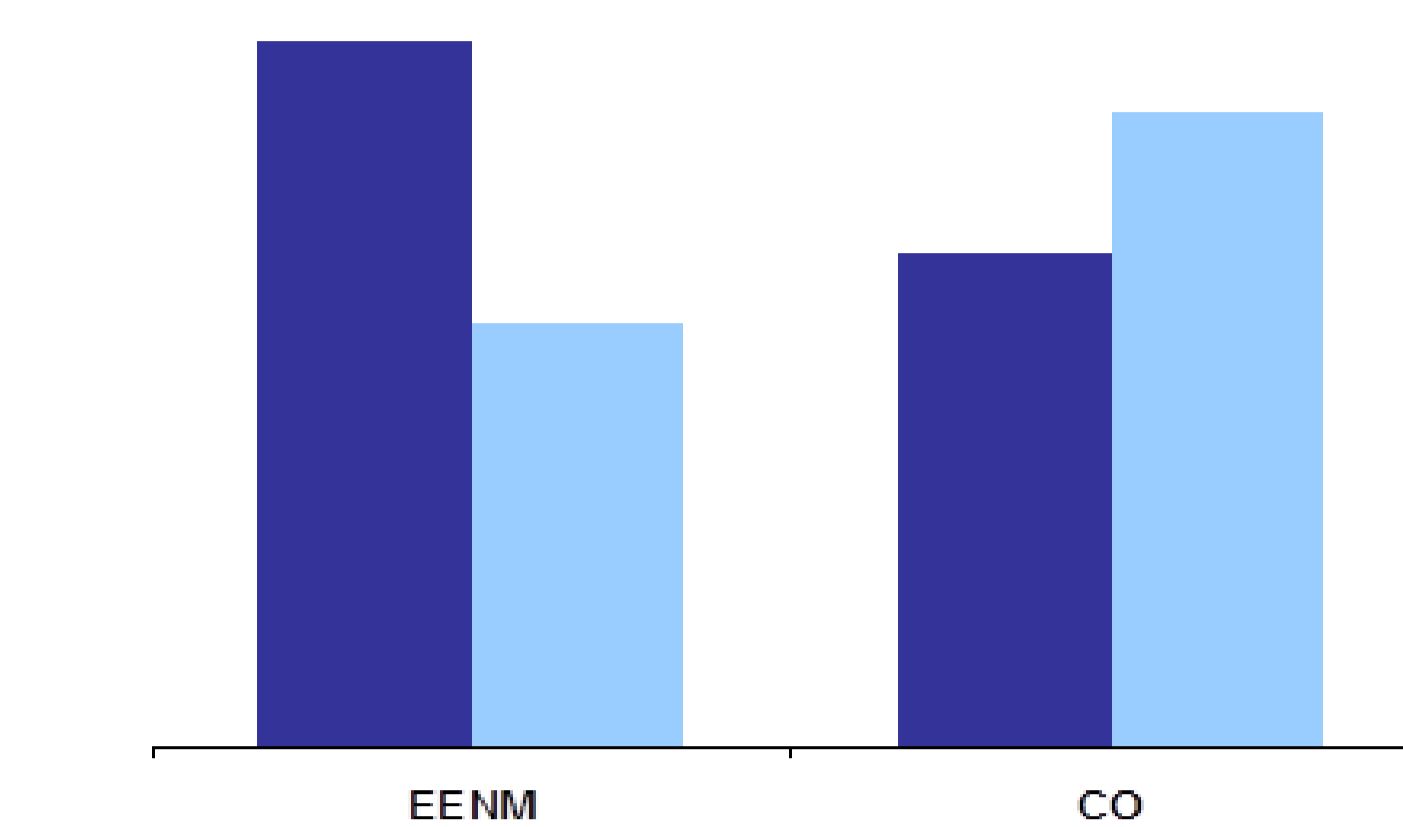
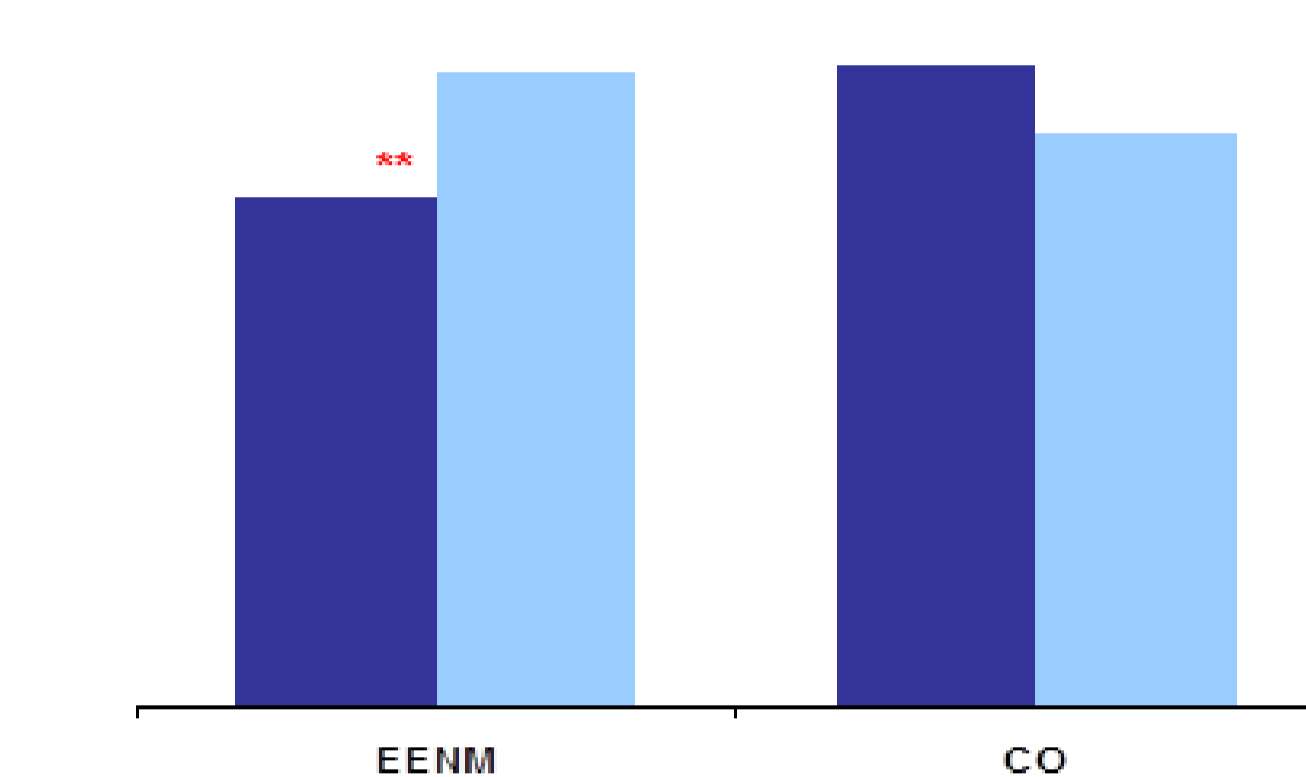


Figure 4.- Health Questionnaire (EQ-5D). Differences between groups during the study (%)

### FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY TESTS



STS10	Inicial	Final	SE
EENM	41 ± 18.7	32.8 ± 14.1	0.064
Control	36.6 ± 8.9	40.4 ± 20	0.571



6MWT	Inicial	Final	SE
EENM	280.5 ± 136.4	312.4 ± 149.3	0.009
Control	308.13 ± 144.8	291.1 ± 134	0.382

Figure 5.- Functional capacity Tests: Sit to stand to sit 10 and 6MWT. Differences between groups during the study

### SATISFACTION DEGREE

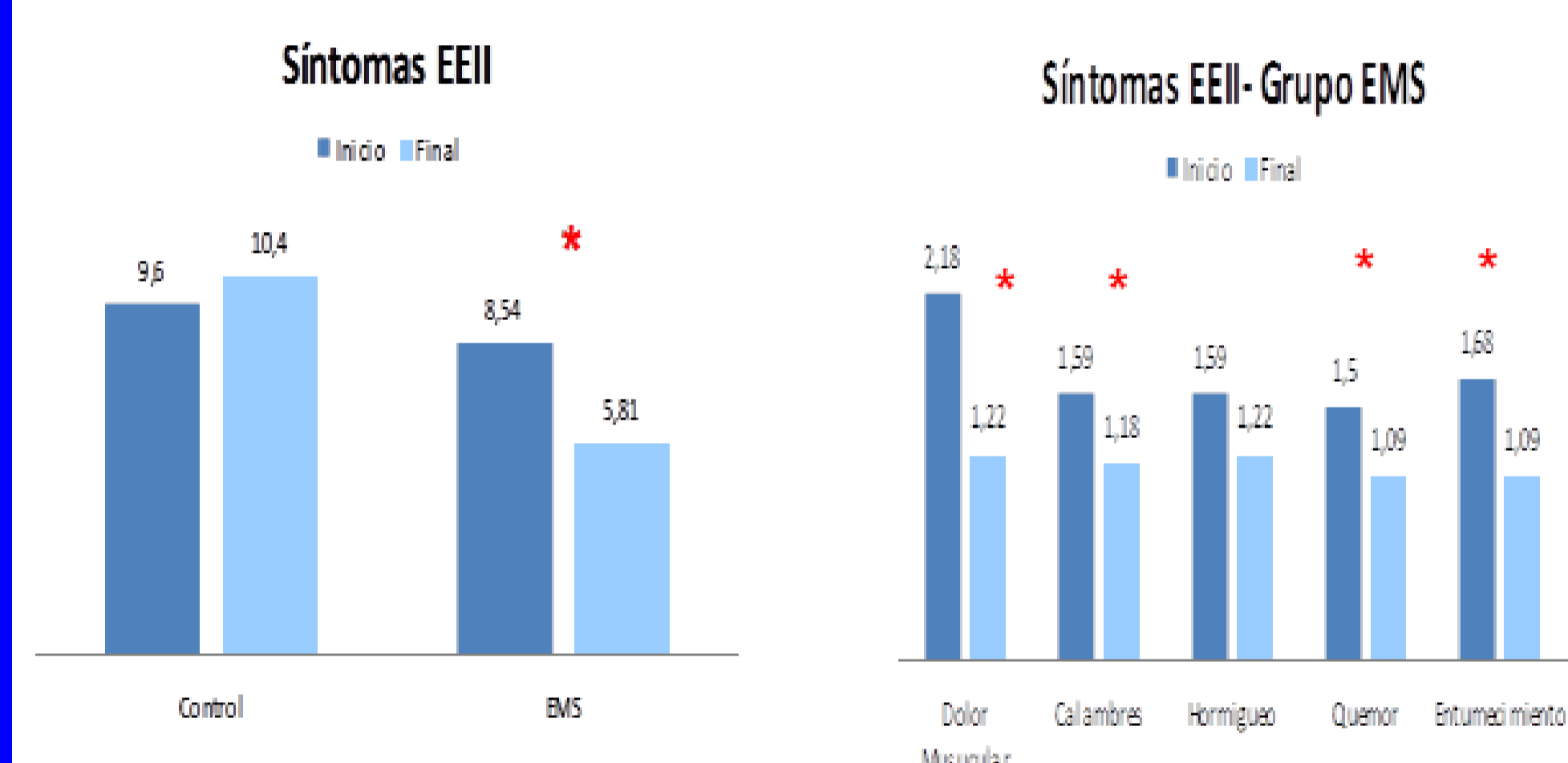
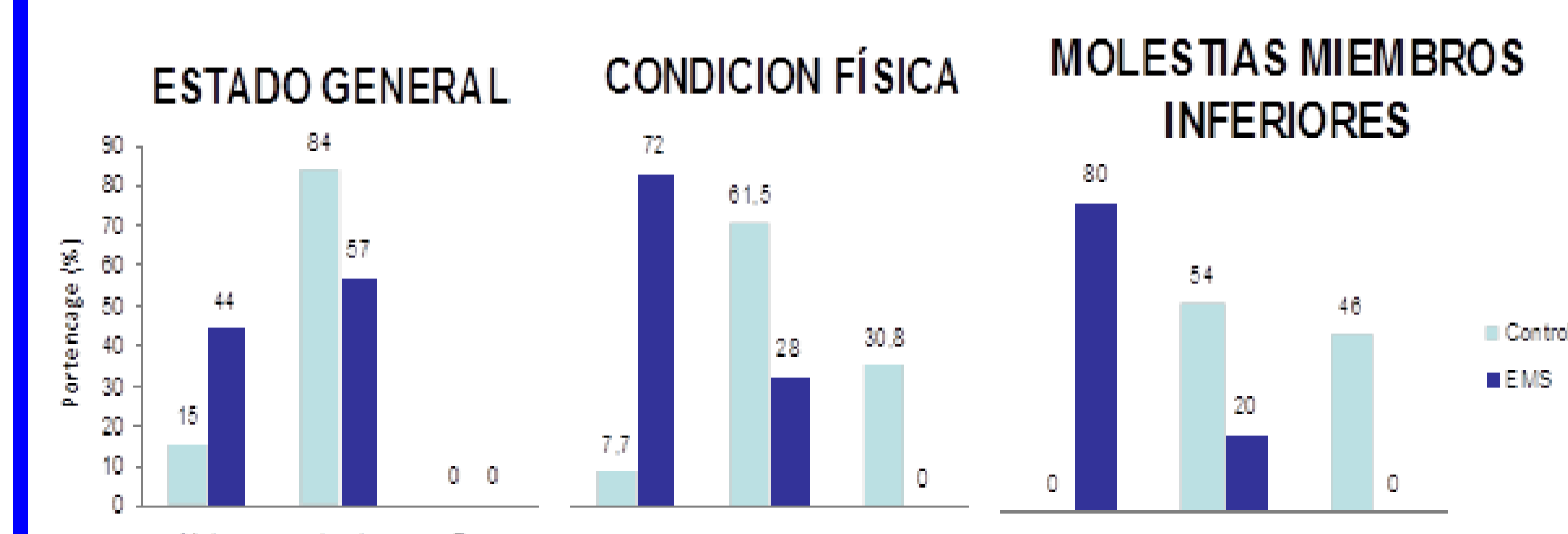


Figure 7.- Homemade EMS symptoms questionnaire:relevant muscular pain, cramps, numbness or pricks in the EMS group.



The VAS satisfaction degree was 7.8 points for the EMS group  
 Figure 7.- Subjective Rating Scale: General being, physical condition and lower limbs symptoms between groups

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1.-The intradialytic neuromuscular electrostimulation of both quadriceps improved muscular strength, functional capacity and quality of life in our HD patients.
- 2.-Neuromuscular electrostimulation was safe, effective and well tolerated in our HD patients.
- 3.-With the obtained results, neuromuscular electrostimulation constitutes a novel therapeutic alternative to improve the deteriorated physical condition and quality of life of these patients.
- 4.-However, it could be an effective alternative to those patients in whom the intradialytic exercise program is physically difficult or is contraindicated.