

New machine the next wave

Shock wave therapy helping to ease ACC golfer's aches and pains Johnny Caribou,
Sports Reporter The Province

Les Bazso, The Province / Technician Kasia Otto uses the Sonocur machine's shock wave therapy on ACC leader Fred Funk's leg at the Air Canada Championship at Northview Golf course.

Fred Funk is walking with a lighter step this weekend and it's not because he shot scorching rounds of 7-under 64 on Friday and 6-under 65 on Saturday.

What's got him walking on air is the new extracorporeal shock wave therapy that's taking the usual bite out of the tendinitis in his knee and shoulder.

"It's great," said the 43-year-old Funk. "I need to win two Air Canada tournaments in order to buy one of these machines."

The quarter million dollar Sonocur machine -- imported from Germany -- blasts four pulses per second to the golfers tender area and can work miracles on tendinitis of the shoulder, knee or foot, golfer's elbow, and heel spurs.

"We put them under 2,000 pulses for eight minutes," said Sonocur technician Erin Younger. "It eliminates the build up of calcium and has a success rate of 75 per cent in eliminating the person's condition."

The new therapy just arrived in Canada and is still 18 months away from hitting the United States.

Payne Stewart, Carlos Franco, Mark Calcavecchia, Frank Nobile and Funk are just some of the pros taking advantage of the machine at the ACC this weekend.

"It gets deeper than a physiotherapist," said Funk. "I get these aches from my swing and the way I walk on my feet."

According to Sonocur vice-president David Lowy those interested in receiving the treatment need to be referred by a doctor.

Regular patients receive five treatments for \$1,000 and is available to the public at the Cambie Surgery Center. But it's free to the PGA players this weekend.

"I'm going to put the machine on the podium if I win," said the lively Funk after receiving treatment.

