



Latest Research

January 2009

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1. [Functional neuroanatomical investigation of vision-related acupuncture point specificity--a multisession fMRI study](#)
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2. [Forgotten Features of Head Zones and Their Relation to Diagnostically Relevant Acupuncture Points](#)
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3. [Acupuncture, or non-directive counselling versus usual care for the treatment of depression: a pilot study.](#)
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4. [\[Study on optimum stimulation parameter for Shuigou \(GV 26\) in Xingnao Kaiqiao needling method\]](#)
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5. [\[Effects of warm needle moxibustion on bone mass density and biochemical indexes of bone metabolism in patients of postmenopausal osteoporosis\]](#)
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8. [A Milestone in Codifying the Wisdom of Traditional Oriental Medicine: TCM, Kampo, TKM, TVM--WHO International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region.](#)
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11. [Acupuncture for locomotor disabilities in a South American red-footed tortoise \(Geochelone carbonaria\) - a case report.](#)
Scognamillo-Szabó MV, Santos AL, Olegário MM, Andrade MB.
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12. [Acupuncture for preconditioning of expectancy and/or Pavlovian extinction.](#)
Lundeberg T, Lund I.
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13. [Do general practices which provide an acupuncture service have low referral rates and prescription costs? A pilot survey.](#)
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14. [A systematic review of the effects of acupuncture in treating insomnia.](#)
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Other databases

1. Yang H. Liu T. Wang Y. Ying S. Zheng C. Kuai L. Gao M. Min Y.
Acupoint electrogymnastics therapy in stroke hemiplegia.
Neural Regeneration Research. 3(10)(pp 1145-1151), 2008

Background: Electrogymnastics can offer a range of proprioceptive, motor, and cutaneous sensation impulses to the central nerve system. The center receives perception of the paralyzed muscle through the aid of these impulses. During this process, functional reorganization of connecting network between segment and intersegment takes place.

Objective: To observe the therapeutic efficacy of acupoint electrogymnastics and traditional electroacupuncture on stroke hemiplegia.

Design, time and setting: A multicenter, randomized, controlled, blinded, clinical study was performed at the College of Acu-moxibustion and Massage in Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine from May 2004 to September 2006.

Participants: A total of 153 patients suffering from stroke hemiplegia, comprising 83 males and 70 females, aged 63-70 years, were admitted to outpatient and inpatient at LongHua Hospital Affiliated Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese medicine, Putuo District Traditional Chinese Medicine Hospital and Changqiao Street Community Health Service Center of Shanghai.

Methods: The patients were randomly divided into treatment (n = 77) and control (n = 76) groups. They were treated with acupoint electrogymnastics and traditional electroacupuncture, respectively. In the treatment group, two pairs of positive and negative JD-2008 type electrodes from a hemiplegia treatment apparatus were directly pasted on the Shousanli (LI 10) and Waiguan (SJ 5) acupoints of the upper limb, as well as the Zusanli (S 36) and Yanglingquan (GB 34) acupoints of the lower limb, respectively. In the control group, needles were consecutively inserted into the above acupoints. Using the method of lifting-inserting and twisting-rotating, the needle was manipulated with small amplitude of 5-7 mm and a fast frequency of 80-120 times/min when the needle was inserted to a suitable depth. When the sensation of needling was attained, the two pairs of positive and negative electrodes of type G6805-II electro-acupuncture apparatus were connected to the Shousanli (LI 10) and Waiguan (SJ 5) acupoints of the upper limb, as well as the Zusanli (S 36) and Yanglingquan (GB 34) acupoints of the lower limb, respectively.

Main outcome measures: The Fugl-Meyer evaluation method was used to assess upper limb movement, lower limb movement, sensory stimulation of all limbs, balance, and joint range of motion.

Results: Upper-lower limb motor function, limb sensory function, balance, and joint range of motion were significantly ameliorated following treatment, compared with pre-treatment ($P < 0.01$). There was no significant difference in various indexes between the two groups after treatment ($P > 0.05$).

Conclusion: Acupoint electrogymnastics and traditional electroacupuncture exhibited similar curative effects in the treatment of stroke hemiplegia.

1. Chaudhuri T.K. Ray A.
Effect of acupuncture in trigeminal neuralgia.
Medical Acupuncture. 20(4)(pp 231-237), 2008

Abstract

Background: Trigeminal neuralgia (TN) is an extremely painful and difficult condition to treat. Existing medical and surgical therapies are moderately effective in many cases, but for a considerable number of patients, these are less than satisfactory and are fraught with failure to respond, considerable side effects of the medications, complications of surgery, and postoperative relapses. Acupuncture has a long-standing reputation of being helpful in various pain syndromes and reportedly has been effective in TN.

Objective: To describe the experience of using acupuncture in a series of patients with TN that did not respond to conventional therapies.

Design, Setting, and Patients: A series of 17 consecutive patients who were referred through July 2007 with the diagnosis of TN to a solo practice of internal medicine and acupuncture in Kansas City,

Missouri.

Intervention: A series of 30-minute treatment sessions consisted of the following: Dispersion of LR 3, MH 6, TH 5, GB 34 with stimulation of LI 4 and ST 36 (2 Hz), and simultaneous stimulation (30 Hz) of the facial points including ST 2, ST 3, LI 20, SI 18, and SI 19. If the supraorbital branch was involved, BL 2 was included. A gold semi-permanent needle was inserted in the trigeminal point of the ipsilateral ear.

Main Outcome Measure: Relief of pain following acupuncture.

Results: Of the 17 patients, 2 did not have classic TN. Three patients did not return after the second treatment. These patients were excluded from this series. Of the remaining 12 patients with classic TN, 4 of 5 men and all 7 women responded with markedly decreased visual analog scale scores (VAS; from mean [SD], 8.75 [1.02] to 1.95 [2.84]; $P < .001$). Five patients (1 man and 4 women) stayed in complete remission, which has lasted 11-15 months following their last acupuncture treatment. These 5 patients stopped taking all medications for TN. The remainder of the patients have continued to receive acupuncture on an as-necessary basis (mean [SD], 31.65 [18.26] days) for the maintenance of pain relief and no resistance to therapy has developed, with the longest follow-up being 18 months. The patients who had a history of multiple operations and procedures also had a good response. No adverse effects were observed.

Conclusions: Acupuncture produced beneficial effects in the majority of patients in this series. Acupuncture should be considered as a safe therapeutic option in patients with TN, especially before invasive intervention is done.

2. Clai D.

Acupuncture for the treatment of cryptozoospermia.

Medical Acupuncture. 20(4)(pp 277-279), 2008.

Abstract

Background: Male infertility accounts for 30%-50% of the causes in infertile couples. Cryptozoospermia is defined as so few sperm in the ejaculate that they are identified only after concentration and centrifugation of the sample.

Objective: To illustrate a case of cryptozoospermia treated successfully with acupuncture.

Patient: A 35-year-old man presented in 2006 reporting that his wife had been unable to conceive for several years. Clinical examination excluded varicocele.

Intervention: Therapeutic protocol included 10 acupuncture treatments at an interval of 2-3 days. The needles were introduced into the selected points, mobilized until the De Qi sensation was elicited, then left in place for 30 minutes. Points on the Kidney Meridian were selected since a main function of the Kidneys is to regulate reproduction, growth, and development.

Main Outcome Measures: We obtained 2 spermograms from the patient: 1 prior to the beginning of treatment and another 3 weeks after its conclusion.

Results: Prior to acupuncture, at an ejaculate volume of 2.7 mL, the total sperm count was 0.54 million (normal count, >40 million), and sperm density was 0.2 million/mL (normal count, >20 million). After 10 acupuncture sessions, the total sperm count/ejaculate was 46.5 million and sperm density was 18.6 million sperm/mL, a 90-fold increase.

Conclusions: Acupuncture successfully treated this patient with long-standing infertility caused by cryptozoospermia. Prospective clinical trials are necessary to validate these findings.

3. Miao E.Y.

Transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) treated with electroacupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

Medical Acupuncture. 20(4)(pp 281-285), 2008

Abstract

Background: Little data exist about the treatment of transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) with acupuncture and/or Chinese herbal medicine.

Objective: To describe a single-case experience with acupuncture and herbal medicine for TIA.

Design and Patient: A 36-year-old Australian woman with a recent history of headaches and numbness presented for treatment. Of note, she had been receiving chiropractic treatment for neck and upper back

pain once a week for the last 2 months.

Intervention: Scalp acupoint was MS 7 line (the scalp sense response line). Two needles were inserted toward GB 7 (Qu Bin). An electroacupuncture stimulator was used at about 20 Hz with intermittent waves. Treatment was 20 minutes per session, 2 sessions per week. In addition, Notoginseng Plus (panax notoginseng plus salvia miltiorrhiza) was prescribed at a standard dosage (two 500-mg tablets, 3 times daily) from the second week onward, invigorating Qi and Blood circulation.

Main Outcome Measure: Change in numbness and dermal sense.

Results: After 6 sessions, the numb sensation disappeared and a physical examination of dermal sense in these areas returned to normal.

Conclusions: This patient benefited from scalp acupuncture plus herbal therapy post-TIA. Further studies are needed to determine the role of electroacupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine therapy.

4. LaRicca P.J. McMurphy S. Gallo J.J. Xie D. Branas C.C.

Perceived effectiveness of acupuncture: Findings from the national health interview survey. Medical Acupuncture. 20(4)(pp 239-244), 2008.

Abstract

Background: Knowledge of perceived benefit from acupuncture treatment is important to predict who is using acupuncture, to inform physicians of the possible benefits of acupuncture, to determine where rigorous research should be focused, and to help policy makers predict future demand.

Objectives: To determine the proportions of survey respondents who reported perceived effectiveness of acupuncture treatment for specific conditions; and to determine the association of specified demographic variables with perceived effectiveness.

Design, Setting, and Participants: Publicly available data from 31,044 noninstitutionalized US adults who participated in the 2002 National Health Interview Survey, a cross-sectional in-home computer-assisted interview.

Outcome Measures: The proportions of participants reporting "any help" and "great help" for perceived effectiveness across conditions treated and per condition treated; and the association of the subgroups within age, sex, and body mass index (BMI), along with the subgroups Asian race and Chinese ethnicity, with "any help" of acupuncture treatment across conditions treated.

Results: Of the 1,274 respondents who reported having consulted an acupuncturist, 329 had used acupuncture in the last 12 months; 276 had used acupuncture to treat a specific condition. A total of 86% of respondents reported being helped by acupuncture, while 45% reported being greatly helped across conditions treated. In an examination of specific conditions treated, the range for "any help" was 98% to 67%, and 98% to 7% in the "great help" outcome. Older age and obesity were negatively associated with perceived effectiveness statistically but not clinically. Asian race and Chinese ethnicity were not statistically significantly associated with perceived effectiveness.

Conclusions: Acupuncture is perceived to be effective by most respondents who used it to treat a specific condition. Older age and obesity are negatively associated with perceived effectiveness, but not at a clinically significant level. A larger sample of Asian and Chinese subgroups is needed to determine if there is an association of these subgroups with perceived benefit.

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