9. Cardiovascular Diseases

Reference

Moon SK, Whang YK, Park SU,et al. Antispastic effect of electroacupuncture and moxibustion in stroke patients. *American Journal of Chinese Medicine* 2003; 31(3): 467–74.

1. Objectives

To evaluate the antispastic effect of the electroacupuncture and Moxibustion on stroke patients.

2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

3. Setting

One Oriental hospital (Kyunghee University Medical Center), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants

Patients with stroke onset of more than 5 weeks and a spastic elbow joint (n=35).

5. Intervention

Arm 1: Conservative therapy + electroacupuncture treatment at the Quchi (LI11, 曲池)-Shousanli (LI10, 手三里) or Waiguan (TE5, 外關)-Hegu (LI4, 合谷) acupuncture points for 8 rounds (n=15).

Arm 2: Conservative therapy + moxibustion treatment at the Quchi (LI11, 曲池)-Shousanli (LI10, 手三里) or Waiguan (TE5, 外關)-Hegu (LI4, 合谷) acupuncture points (n=10).

Arm 3: Control treatment group (n=10).

6. Main outcome measures

Score on the Modified Ashworth Scale.

7. Main results

Spasticity was significantly decreased at 1 and 3 hours and 5 days by electroacupuncture treatment (P<0.05), but not by moxibustion treatment.

8. Conclusions

Electroacupuncture temporarily relieves spasticity in patients with stroke, and repeated application maintains relief.

9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor's comments

This study evaluates the effectiveness of electroacupuncture and moxibustion on spasticity due to stroke. Electroacupuncture had significant efficacy for spasticity. This 8-week study failed to show any significant efficacy of moxibustion treatment. A future large scale and long term clinical trial is needed to test moxibustion at other acupuncture points and using other treatment courses.

11. Abstractor

Go HY, 18 July 2010.