

13. Diseases of the Musculo Skeletal System and Connective Tissue

Reference

Lee SY, Lim JA, Na WM, et al. The study of the Kim sham acupuncture for single blind about the acupuncture points used for treatment of the shoulder pain. *Daehan-Chimgu-Hakhoeji (Journal of Korean Acupuncture & Moxibustion Society)* 2006; 23(6): 133–43 (in Korean with English abstract).

1. Objectives

To assess the difference in subjective sensation between patients treated with real acupuncture and patients treated with sham acupuncture in a pilot study preceding clinical trials of acupuncture treatment of shoulder pain.

2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

3. Setting

Two Oriental hospitals (Oriental Medical Hospital at Gwangju, Wonkwang University, and Public Health Center in Hwa-sun), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants

Patients who responded positively to the question “Do you agree to participate in a clinical trial comparing the feeling of real acupuncture with that of Kim sham acupuncture? If you agree, please write down your sex, age, name, and sign the form” (n=60).

5. Intervention

Arm 1: Real acupuncture (n=29).

Arm 2: Kim sham acupuncture (n=31).

Both types of acupuncture needles were applied to local points such as Jianliao (TE14, 肩髃), Jianyu (LI15, 肩髃), and distant points such as Quchi (LI11, 曲池), Zhongzhu (TE3, 中渚), Houxi (SI3, 後谿), and Hegu (LI4, 合谷) once for 30 minutes.

6. Main Outcome Measures

Assessment of the feeling difference between real acupuncture and sham acupuncture.

7. Main Results

Patients were able to distinguish real acupuncture from sham acupuncture treatment ($P<0.05$) when acupuncture points such as Jianliao (TE14), Jianyu (LI15), and Houxi (SI3) were used.

8. Conclusions

In the Kim sham acupuncture treatment, blinding of the Jianliao (TE14), Jianyu (LI15), and Houxi (SI3) acupuncture points is not possible.

9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor's comments

Inclusion of a placebo control group in clinical trials of acupuncture (like clinical trials of medical devices) is difficult. This study was designed to determine whether subjects could discriminate real from sham acupuncture. This findings of this study may have important implications for future clinical trials of acupuncture. In Asian people including Koreans, discrimination of real from sham acupuncture is unimportant. Stratification of subjects based on acupuncture treatment frequency is suggested.

11. Abstractor and date

Kim HJ, 17 August 2010.