

18. Symptoms and Signs

Reference

Kim Y, Kim CW, Kim KS. Clinical observations on postoperative vomiting treated by auricular acupuncture *American Journal of Chinese Medicine* 2003; 31(3): 475–80.

1. Objectives

To evaluate the effect of auricular acupuncture on postoperative vomiting.

2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

3. Setting

One Oriental hospital (details not mentioned), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants

Women who received hysterectomy (n=100) (average age: Arm 1=43.5, Arm 2=41.5 years,).

5. Intervention

Arm1: Preanesthetic auricular acupuncture (acupoints: sympathetic, stomach, shinmoon, and occiput).
Arm2: No treatment (control).

6. Main Outcome Measures

Assessment of nausea and vomiting 12 hours postoperatively.

7. Main Results

Treatment significantly decreased the frequency of nausea and vomiting 12 hours postoperatively in Arm 1 compared to Arm 2 (30% in Arm 1 vs. 68% in Arm2, $P<0.01$).

8. Conclusions

Auricular acupuncture at sympathetic, stomach, shinmoon, and occiput acupoints significantly reduces postoperative vomiting.

9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor's comments

This randomized, controlled trial compared the effect of auricular acupuncture with that of no treatment on postoperative vomiting within 12 hours after hysterectomy. The auricular acupuncture at sympathetic, stomach, shinmoon, and occiput acupoints significantly reduced the incidence of postoperative vomiting. Although the number of patients in the control group was too small and assessment of nausea and vomiting was subjective, it is thought that this study shows that auricular acupuncture has an effect on postoperative vomiting.

11. Abstractor and date

Kim JS, 10 June 2010.