9. Cardiovascular Diseases

Reference

1. Objectives
To evaluate the effect of electroacupuncture at different frequencies on motor function recovery after stroke.

2. Design
Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

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

4. Participants
Patients with cerebral infarction, and hospitalized 1 week to 1 month after onset (n=42).

5. Intervention
Stimulation at the Hegu (LI4, 合谷), Quchi (LI11, 曲池), Shousanli (LI10, 手三里), and Waiguan (TE5, 外關) acupuncture points of the upper extremity on the affected side. Stimulation at the Zusanli (ST36, 足三里), Shangjuxu (ST37, 上巨虚), Xuanzhong (GB39, 懸鐘), and Taichong (LR3, 太沖) acupuncture points of the lower extremity on the affected side.
Arm 1: Low frequency (2 Hz) electroacupuncture point stimulation for 2 weeks (n=21).
Arm 2: High frequency (120 Hz) electroacupuncture point stimulation for 2 weeks (n=21).

6. Main outcome measures
General items (personal details and hypertension, diabetes mellitus, history of present illness, biochemical tests), Motor Evoked Potential (MEP), National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS) score, Modified Barthel Index (MBI), Modified motor assessment scale (MMAS).

7. Main results
MEP was significantly more improved in Arm 1 than in Arm 2. Although low frequency treatment (compared to high frequency treatment) improved NIHSS, MBI, and MMAS scores, the between-group differences in these were not significant.

8. Conclusions
Low frequency electroacupuncture point stimulation is more effective for restoring motor function after stroke.

9. Safety assessment in the article
Not mentioned

10. Abstractor’s comments
This study evaluated the effect of low and high frequency electroacupuncture point stimulation on motor function recovery after stroke. Low frequency stimulation had more effect on the central nervous system. However, the study period was short, and it is thought that a long-term study with a large number of patients is needed.

11. Abstractor and date
Go HY, 18 July 2010.