13. Diseases of the Musculo Skeletal System and Connective Tissue

Reference

1. Objectives
To compare the effect of sweet bee venom acupuncture and bee venom acupuncture on low back pain with radiating pain.

2. Design
Double-blinded randomized controlled trial (DB-RCT).

3. Setting
One Oriental hospital (Semyung University Oriental Medicine Hospital at Chungju), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants
Patients with low back pain with radiating pain (n=24).

5. Intervention
Arm 1: Sweet bee venom (SBV) acupuncture + conventional acupuncture (n=14).
Arm 2: Bee venom (BV) acupuncture + conventional acupuncture (n=10).

6. Main outcome measures
Pain self-assessed on a visual analogue scale (VAS) and functional change assessed by the straight leg raising test (SLRT).

7. Main results
Both treatments resulted in similar levels of pain relief and functional improvement.

8. Conclusions
Sweet bee venom acupuncture and bee venom acupuncture have similar efficacy for low back pain with radiating pain.

9. Safety assessment in the article
Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor’s comments
Blinding and randomization were well maintained. However, issues including informed consent and verification of the side effects were insufficiently addressed. Initial values were thought to be close to normal, and no statistically meaningful results were obtained.

11. Abstractor and date
Kim HJ, 17 August 2010.