

## 18. Symptoms and Signs

### Reference

Lee SK, Lee SW, Choi DH. Effect of acupuncture on P6 for preventing opioid-induced nausea and vomiting. *Dongui-Saengli-Byeongli-Hakhoeji (Korean Journal of Oriental Physiology & Pathology)* 2007; 21(6): 1637–40 (in Korean with English abstract).

### 1. Objectives

To evaluate acupuncture at the Neiguan (PC6, 內關) acupoint for preventing opioid-induced nausea and vomiting.

### 2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

### 3. Setting

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

### 4. Participants

Patients receiving the opioid drug fentanyl and the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug Ketorolac during laparoscopic surgery *via* an intravenous, patient controlled analgesia (PCA) pump (n=83).

### 5. Intervention

Arm1: Acupuncture at the Neiguan (PC6, 內關) acupoint and followed by low frequency electrostimulation (5 Hz) for 20 minutes (n=40).

Arm 2: No treatment (n=43).

### 6. Main Outcome Measures

Questionnaire (development, strength, and frequency of nausea).

### 7. Main Results

Treatment decreased the frequency of nausea (10.0% in Arm1 *vs* 23.3% in Arm 2) and vomiting (0% in Arm1 and 11.6% in Arm 2) within 48 hours. The strength of nausea was none (n=36), weak (n=3), moderate (n=1), severe (n=0) in Arm1 and none (n=33), weak (n=5), moderate (n=2), and severe (n=3) in Arm 2.

### 8. Conclusions

Acupuncture at the Neiguan (PC6) acupoint and followed by electrostimulation can prevent opioid-induced nausea and vomiting. But the differences between groups lack statistical significance.

### 9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

### 10. Abstractor's comments

This study evaluated acupuncture at the Neiguan (PC6) acupoint for preventing opioid-induced nausea and vomiting. Patients (n=83) receiving fentanyl and Ketorolac during laparoscopic surgery via a PCA device were enrolled. In the the treatment group, patients received acupuncture at the Neiguan (PC6) acupoint followed by low frequency electrostimulation (5 Hz) for 20 minutes, and in the control group, patients received no treatment. However, there was no significant between-group difference in the postoperative development, strength, and frequency of nausea. In a previous report showing that Neiguan (PC6) acupoint stimulation prevents nausea, it was suggested that a well-designed study was needed to evaluate the efficacy of this treatment.

### 11. Abstractor and date

Kim JS, 9 June 2010.