9. Cardiovascular Diseases

Reference

1. Objectives
To evaluate the effectiveness of moxibustion stimulation for recovery of function in patients with hemiplegia after stroke.

2. Design
Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

3. Setting
One Oriental hospital (Oriental Medical Hospital of Dongeui University), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants
Forty-two hemiplegic stroke patients with functional independence scores of 11–35 within 8 weeks since onset. The lesion were in the middle cerebral artery or basilar artery.

5. Intervention
Arm 1: Conservative therapy + moxibustion for 6 weeks applied to the Hegu (LI4, 合谷), Waiguan (TE5, 外關), Quchi (LI11, 曲池), Taichong (LR3, 太沖), Xuanzhong (GB39, 懸鐘), Zusanli (ST36, 足三里) acupuncture points (n=21).
Arm 2: Conservative therapy only (n=21).

6. Main outcome measures
Functional independence measure (FIM).

7. Main results
Decrease in FIM score was significantly greater in Arm 1 (19.3±9.9 to 44.7±12.5) than Arm 2 (19.9±10.8 to 36.5±10.7) \( (P=0.001) \).

8. Conclusions
Moxibustion may improve the functional recovery of hemiplegic patients after stroke.

9. Safety assessment in the article
Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor’s comments
This study evaluated the effectiveness of moxibustion for improving the functional recovery of hemiplegic patients after stroke. It is suggested that moxibustion has efficacy in stroke patients. However, the small number of patients, the effectiveness of conservative therapy, and lack of long term treatment were limitations of the study. Therefore an additional clinical trial is needed.

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