Acupuncture treatment modified the mRNA expression of SERCA related genes induced by spiral wire immobilization in mice

Akiko Onda¹,²,³, Susumu Minamisawa², Toru Fukubayashi³, Katsuhiko Suzuki³
¹ Department of Internal Medicine, Teikyo University School of Medicine
² Department of Cell Physiology, The Jikei University
³ Faculty of Sport Sciences, Waseda University

The purpose of this study was to examine whether acupuncture treatment is available to affect the muscle contractile function. Sarcoplasmic reticulum Ca²⁺ATPase (SERCA) resides in the sarcoplasmic reticulum (SR) within muscle cells. SERCA transfers Ca²⁺ from the cytosol of the cell to the lumen of the SR at the expense of ATP hydrolysis during muscle relaxation. Calsequestrin is a Ca²⁺-binding protein of the sarcoplasmic reticulum. Electroacupuncture (EA) and manual acupuncture (MA) were conducted on the atrophic gastrocnemius muscles induced by spiral wire immobilization (SWI) for 2 weeks. A total of 32 male mice (8 weeks), were randomly placed into 4 groups: A) control, B) SWI, C) SWI + MA and D) SWI+EA 1 Hz (n = 8/each groups). We measured the mRNA expression levels of SERCA1 in soleus is significantly increased by the SWI (P < 0.001) and significantly decreased by the MA and EA treatment (P < 0.05, P < 0.05, respectively). Surprisingly, we found the mRNA expression level of Calsequestrin1 in SWI group was significantly increased than control group (P < 0.01) and the EA group expression level was significantly increased than in the SWI group (P < 0.05), however, we could not find the significant difference between the MA group and the control group. We concluded that acupuncture treatment is available to affect the muscle contractile function.