In this issue of the journal, recommended articles are selected from the *Korean Journal of Acupuncture* (ISSN: 1229-7933) and from the *Journal of Pharmacopuncture* (ISSN: 1226-4849), which were published in the Korean language.


Revised Standards for Reporting Inventions in Clinical Trials of Acupuncture (STRICTA): Extending the CONSORT Statement

Hyang-Sook Lee, Su-Jin Cha, Hi-Joon Park, Jung-Chul Seo, Jong-Bae J. Park, Hye-Jung Lee

**Abstract**

**Objectives and Methods:** The Standards for Reporting Interventions in Clinical Trials of Acupuncture (STRICTA) were published in five journals in 2001 and 2002. These guidelines, in the form of a checklist and explanations for use by authors and journal editors, were designed to improve reporting of acupuncture trials, particularly the interventions, thereby facilitating their interpretation and replication. Subsequent reviews of the application and impact of STRICTA have highlighted the value of STRICTA, as well as the need for improvements and revision. To manage the revision process a collaboration between the STRICTA Group, the CONSORT Group, and the Chinese Cochrane Center was developed in 2008. An expert panel with 47 participants was convened that provided electronic feedback on a revised draft of the checklist was convened. At a subsequent face-to-face meeting in Freiburg, a group of 21 participants further revised the STRICTA checklist and planned its dissemination.

**Results:** The new STRICTA checklist, which is an official extension of CONSORT, includes six items and 17 sub-items. These set out reporting guidelines for the acupuncture rationale, the details of needling, the treatment regimen, other components of treatment, the practitioner’s background, and the control or comparator interventions. In addition, and as part of this revision process, the explanation for each item has been elaborated, and examples of good reporting for each item have been provided. In addition, the word “controlled” in STRICTA is replaced by “clinical” to indicate that STRICTA is applicable to a broad range of clinical evaluation designs, including uncontrolled outcome studies and case reports.

**Conclusion:** The revised STRICTA, in conjunction with both the main CONSORT statement and an extension for nonpharmacologic treatment, is intended to raise the quality of reporting of clinical trials of acupuncture.

**Key Words:** Acupuncture, STRICTA, CONSORT, Intervention, Reporting, Checklist


A Study on Oriental Medical Treatment Programs for Adolescents with Rhinitis in Collaboration with a Community Health Center

Jong-Uk Kim, Yi-Hyun Cho, Jin-Bok Lee, Jeong-Gyun Im, Beom-Yong Song, Tae-Han Yook, Seung-Hun An

**Abstract**

**Objectives:** The purpose of this study is to investigate rhinitis in middle-school students and to confirm the effect of oriental medical treatments on rhinitis. We proceeded with this oriental medical treatment program in collaboration with a community health center.

**Methods:** We gave oriental medical treatment, such as herbal medicines (pillet-type Gamisinicheongpye-um and ointment) and intradermal acupuncture therapy at Hapgok (LI4), Yeonghyang (LI20), Indang, and Bi-ik points, to patients for 9 weeks. Results of this treatment program were evaluated on a four-point-scale based on symptoms: “severe (+++)”, “moderate(+)”, “mild (+)” and “no symptom (−).”

**Results:** After oriental medical treatments, the symptoms of rhinitis (sneezing, rhinorrhea, nasal obstruction, nasal itching and dysosmia) were improved significantly compared to before the treatments ($p<0.05$).
Conclusion: We confirmed that patients with rhinitis who were treated with oriental medicine showed significant improvement. This suggests a need to expand oriental medical treatment programs in collaboration with community health centers.

Key Words: Rhinitis, Sinicheongpye-um, Intradermal acupuncture, Community health center


Acupuncture Point Locations for Experimental Animal Studies in Rats and Mice

Sung-Tae Koo, Sun-Kwang Kim, E-Hwa Kim, Jae-Hyo Kim, Dae-Hwan Youn, Bong-Hyo Lee, Youn-Byoung Chae, Il-Hwan Choi, Sun-Mi Choi

Abstract

Objectives: The aim of the study is to draw a consensus on the locations of acupuncture points (APLs) that are frequently used in experimental animal studies. A well-documented APL is needed not only for humans but also for rodents because stimulation at a precise point is a very important factor in acupuncture.

Methods: We organized a committee of experts to reach a consensus on the APLs in rat. The subject points were limited to the 22 points used in papers published in international peer-reviewed journals. To describe the locations of the points, we adopted the syntax of the sentence used in the WHO standard acupuncture point locations.

Results: The locations of 22 acupuncture points, such as ST36, LI4, PC6, and SP6, were described in English with photographic illustrations. Interestingly, we found that ST36 have been placed at two different locations in rodents. For practical use, the location of the ST36 point was described in two different ways.

Conclusion: We hope that the newly developed APLs will serve as good indicators for use in acupuncture experiments on rats and mice.

Key Words: Acupuncture point, Rat, Mouse, Transpositional point


The Study to Standardize the ST36 Acupoint Location on Rats

Jong-Yeop Kim, Il-Hwan Choi, Yo-Han Hong, Sabina Lim

Abstract

Background: The locations of acupoints on rats, which may differ from these on the human body due to anatomical structure, are defined in many different ways by various researchers, which may cause problems with low repeatability and objectivity.

Materials and Methods: The measurement of hind limb consists of measuring the distance between the knee joint and the tibia tubercle in order to set the knee joint as the common criterion. Based on this, the three most commonly referenced locations of ST36 were represented with the knee joint as a reference point and were compared. Electroacupuncture stimulation was administered after abdominal pain had been induced by using acetic acid, and the analgesic activity of each ST36 acupoint was evaluated by measuring the number of writhing reflexes, in order to observe the differences in the effects of treatment between the three locations of the ST36 acupoint.

Results: The measurements confirmed differences in the location of the ST36 acupoint among researchers. The test of the writhing reflex stimulated by electroacupuncture at 100Hz after abdominal pain had been induced by using acetic acid showed statistically significant differences in the analgesic effect between control group and the three ST36 groups (one ST36 groups for each of the three most commonly referenced location of ST 36) \( (p < 0.05) \). However, no significant differences were observed among the three ST36 groups \( (p > 0.05) \).

Conclusion: We recommend “the point located 6.5mm below the knee joint at the anterior tibial muscle” as the standard ST36 acupoint location, as qualified by the WHO Standard Acupuncture Point Locations in 2008.

Key Words: Acupoint, Standardization, ST36, Rat, Visceral pain


A Study on the Validity of Refuting Literature about the Bonghan Theory

Sang-Hun Lee, Wenji Zhang, Kwang-Sup Soh, Byung-Chun Lee, Baek-Kyung Sung, Yeon-Hee Ryu

Abstract

Background: The Bonghan theory is a hypothesis on the anatomical structure of the acupuncture point and the meridian system and has been regarded as a misunderstanding of the lymphatic system or as a made-up story for
the past 40 years. Since 2002, many studies have been published either to support the theory or to refute the old viewpoint.

Objective: The purpose of this study was to determine the validity of refutations of the Bonghan theory by reviewing publications on that subjects.

Methods: Searches were made of online databases (Riss4u.net, Google.com, Sciencedirect.com, Pubmed.com, baidu.com, and ci.nii.ac.jp) from 1960 to 2009. The search terms that were used were “Bonghan”, “Bong han”, “풍한”, “thread-like structure”, “Ким Бон Ханом”, “СИСТЕМА КЕРАК”, “風漢”, “風漢学説.” References from publications found in the search were also used.

Results: Since the 1960s, 107 publications were identified as related works, but only 11 publications sought to refute the Bonghan theory. Two publications were research, and nine were reviews. In an analysis of the correlation of the arguments with the publication contents, the research of G. Kellner was found to have reviewed the Bonghan system properly, but that of V.V. Kosmatov did not classify the ear-reflex zone as a traditional acupuncture point. For the review publications, only two reviews contained proper arguments; seven publications were identified as broad interpretations, incorrect translations, etc. The two proper reviews were grounded on the research of G. Kellner.

Conclusions: We found that the scientific basis for the refutation of the Bonghan theory is the research by G. Kellner. This result suggests that discussions of the Bonghan theory are not sufficient to refute its validity.

Key Words: Bonghan, Bong han, G. Kellner, acupuncture points


Biological Activities of Scolopendrid Pharmacopuncture

Sung-Chul Kim, Geun-Young Seo, Sung-Won Lee, Sung-Joo Park, Jae-Hyo Kim, Seong-Hun Ahn, Sung-Yeoun Hwang

Abstract

Objectives: Our research objective was to examine the in vitro biological activity of Scolopendrid pharmacopuncture, including the total polyphenol content, DPPH radical scavenging, ABTS radical scavenging, superoxide dismutase (SOD)-like activity, and nitrite scavenging ability.

Methods: Medicinal materials for the Scolopendrid pharmacopuncture were made at the Korean Pharmacopuncture Institute, and various biological activities were measured.

Results: The total polyphenol content of the Scolopendrid Pharmacopuncture were 35.859 mg/L. The electron donation ability on DPPH was 36.82%. The 2,2’-azinobis-3-ethylbezothiazoline-6-sulfonic acid radical decolorization (ABTS) was 84.7%. The SOD-like activity of the Scolopendrid pharmacopuncture was 44.33%. The nitrite scavenging effects were pH dependent and were highest at pH 1.5 (45.2%) and lowest at pH 6.0 (11.3%).

Conclusions: We conclude that the Scolopendrid pharmacopuncture may be useful as a potential source of antioxidants.

Key Words: Scolopendrid pharmacopuncture, Nitrite scavenging ability, SOD-like activity, Antioxidant activity


Effects of Sweet Bee Venom on the Cardiovascular System in Conscious Telemetered Beagle Dogs

Chung-San Lim, Kwang-Ho Lee, Ki-Rok Kwon

Abstract

Objectives: This study was performed to analyze the effects of Sweet Bee Venom (Sweet BV) on the cardiovascular system in conscious telemetered Beagle dogs.

Methods: All experiments were conducted at Biotoxtech Company, an institution authorized to perform non-clinical studies, under the regulations of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). Male Beagle dogs of 13–19 months were chosen for the pilot study and surgical implantation was performed on conscious telemetered Beagle dogs. After the condition of the Beagle dogs had been confirmed to be stable, Sweet BV was administered 4 times (first: 0.0 mg/kg, 2nd: 0.01 mg/kg, 3rd: 0.1 mg/kg, and fourth: 0.5 mg/kg, one time/week) in the thigh muscle of the Beagle dogs. The blood pressure, heart rate, and clinical responses were measured and electrocardiobiography was performed. And amount of normal saline equal to the amount of Sweet BV administered to the experiment groups was administered to the control group.

Results: 1. In the analysis of body weight and taking amount, Beagle dogs did not show significant changes. 2. In the clinical observation, responses of pain and edema depended on the dosage of Sweet BV. 3. In the analysis of the blood pressure, treatment with Sweet BV did not show significant change at a dosage of 0.01 mg/kg, but at dosages of 0.1 mg/kg and 0.5 mg/kg. Treatment with Sweet BV increased the blood pressure significantly. 4. In the analysis of the heart rate, treatment with Sweet BV did not show significant changes for all dosages and periods. 5. In the analysis of electrocardiography, treatment with Sweet BV did not show significant changes for all dosages and periods.