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Survival Analysis of Cancer Patients Treated with Traditional Korean Medicine Recent 10 years

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Purpose: We aimed to analyze survival rates and duration of cancer patients who treated with Traditional Korean Medicine (TKM).

Methods: We analyzed the medical records of 971 patients who were treated more than 1 month of out-patient or 20 days of hospitalization at the Daejeon Oriental Hospital from Oct. 2004 to Sep. 2014. The survival rates and median survival duration (MSD) were estimated by the Kaplan-Meier method and Log-rank test. Seven different kinds of cancers patients who were suffered from liver, thyroid, colon & rectum, stomach, breast, pancreas, or lung cancer were analyzed by gender, age, and cancer stage-specific. We also estimated survival rates and MSD of 203 terminally ill cancer patients.

Results: The 5-year survival rates and MSD of 971 patients was 38.6% (95%CI 34.8 – 42.3), 3.28-year (95%CI 2.87 - 3.65) respectively. The 5-year survival rates of liver, colon & rectum, stomach, breast, pancreas, or lung cancer patients were 30.0% (95% CI 19.5 – 40.5), 25.0%(95% CI 16.0 – 34.0), 24.4%(95% CI 16.2 – 32.6), 79.3%(95% CI 70.4 – 88.1), 3.4% (95% CI 0.0 – 9.3), 22.2%(95% CI 12.6 – 31.8), respectively. The MSD for liver, colon & rectum, stomach, breast, pancreas and lung cancer patients was 2.27-year (95%CI 1.21 - 3.50), 3.11-years (95%CI 2.67 - 3.58), 1.96-year (95%CI 1.71 - 2.52), 8.04-year (95%CI 7.01 - 10.69), 1.01-year (95% CI 0.80 - 1.21), 2.07-years (95%CI 1.47 - 2.53), respectively. Moreover, the MSD of terminally ill cancer patients was 0.39-years (about 20 weeks, 95%CI 0.33 - 0.44) and 0.5-year survival rates for them were 40.7% (95%CI 33.6 - 47.7), respectively.

Conclusion: All cancer types were not obviously extended the survival duration by treatment with TKM, the survival rate, especially for the liver, breast, pancreas and lung cancer patients are relatively higher than other treatment. Well-designed and prospective clinical trials should be recommended to provide more reliable evidence.

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Short Term Efficacy of Radiofrequency Stimulation on Acupuncture Points for Low Back Pain: A Randomized, Double Blinded, Placebo-Controlled Trial

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Purpose: The objective of this study is to assess the pain-relief efficacy of percutaneous radiofrequency (RF) stimulation on acupuncture points (APs) in the treatment of patients suffering from low back pain (LBP) as a preliminary study.

Methods: A total of 56 LBP patients whose minimum pain intensity on visual analogue scale (VAS, 0-100 mm) was more than 30 mm were randomly allocated to either control or treatment group. The treatment group (n=28) received RF stimulation on four bilateral and three unilateral APs for three times a week. The placebo-controlled group (n=28) received false stimulation on the identical APs with the treatment group. All patients after randomization were required to report the case report form at baseline, all of three times of treatment periods and the follow-up period within 7 days after all treatments. The primary outcome was the change of VAS scores from baseline to the end of the follow-up period.

Results: The patient’s reported change of VAS scores between baseline and the follow-up period (average: 9.8 days) were significantly decreased by 8.0 ± 13.0 mm (90% confidence interval: -12.2 to -3.9, p<0.01) in the treatment group, and 13.4 ± 14.3 mm (90% confidence interval: -18.0 to -8.8, p<0.001) in the placebo-controlled group. The difference between the treatment group and the placebo-controlled group was 5.4 mm (90% confidence interval: -11.4 to 0.7, p=0.145).

Conclusion: Our preliminary results indicate that there was significant change in VAS scores for low back pain between the baseline and the follow-up period within both groups, whereas there was no significant difference between the groups. A future clinical trial shall be designed with the long term period and active control to verify the efficacy of acupoints stimulation with RF.

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