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


Survey on Ear Acupuncture Usage by Clinical Traditional Korean Medicine Doctors

Ae-Ran Kim, Sang-Hun Lee, Jung-Eun Kim, Bo-Young Kim, Kyung-Won Kang, Sun-Mi Choi

Abstract

Objectives: A survey was conducted to determine ear acupuncture usage by clinical traditional Korean medicine doctor and to lay a foundation for standards for its clinical application.

Methods: Twice over two weeks, e-mail were sent to Korean medicine doctors whose email addresses were registered at the Association of Korea Oriental Medicine. Two hundred eighty (280) completed questionnaires were used for the analysis.

Results: Of the respondents, 66.07% answered in use, but the answer "less than 10 per 100 patient applied" was 54.29%. The major field of treatment were addictive disorders, such as smoking, and 80.11% of the patients had less than 3 days of treatment. The ear was the most commonly treated area with 66.67%. The self-removal frequency was as high as 65.05%. The rate of side effects was less than 10% (96.70% replies in total), and these side effects showed light symptoms such as "pain" (46.95%), itchiness (29.27%), and flaring (19.51%). The recommendations for improving ear acupuncture treatment was "the development of effective treatment manual" (28.57%) and "increasing insurance costs" (27.86%).

Conclusions: Based on the survey, a vast majority of the Traditional Korean medicine doctors used ear acupuncture, but the frequency of use was low. We hope this study can form the basis for developing of treatment manuals for various indications and safe treatment guidelines.

Key Words: clinical traditional Korean medicine doctor; ear acupuncture; intradermal acupuncture; Survey


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Analysis of Pulse Wave Parameters According to Aging for Arteriosclerosis Evaluation

Na-Ra Lee, Seung-Wook Lee, Soo-Byeong Kim, Yong-Heum Lee

Abstract

Objectives: The aim of this study is to propose the W area of pulse (AW) as a new index that can be used to confirm arteriosclerosis by analyzing the parameters of the 5-level pressure pulse waveform for a normotensive group according to aging.

Methods: We measured the radial pulse waveforms of a normotensive group (20 to 60 years old) by using a 3-dimensional pulse imaging analyser (DMP-3000, DAEYOMEDI Co., Korea). Then we analyzed various parameters for sclerosis of the
arteries such as height (h1, h2, h3, h4, h5), time (t1, t2, t3, t4, t5), AW, AW rate, total area of pulse (At) and augmentation index (Aiₓ).

Results: As a result of the analyzing parameters according to age, h2, h3, AS (systolic area rate to AT), Aiₓ and AW were increased but t2/t, t3/t, t5/t and AD (diastolic area rate to AT) were decreased.

Conclusions: We checked the blood-vessel conditions for a normotensive group according to age and confirmed various parameters. Also, we found that the AW was analogous to the Aiₓ that has been used for diagnosing arteriosclerosis. Furthermore, compared with the Aiₓ, we confirmed the usefulness of the AW as a new parameter for checking blood-vessel condition and characteristics.

Key Words: pulse waveform; 5-level pressure; arteriosclerosis; augmentation index (Aiₓ); W area of pulse (Aw)

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Comparative Studies on the Concordance Rate of Pulse Condition Interpretation between Interpreters and between Interpreters and a Pulse Analyzer

Sei-Young Kang, In-Soo Jang, Lak-Hyung Kim

Abstract

Objectives: The purpose of our investigation was to determine the concordance rate among interpreters. Furthermore, we determined the concordance rate between individual interpreters and the pulse analyzer used in this study.

Methods: Thirty-nine volunteers were enrolled for this study. As instructed by the protocol, these subjects took a 5-minute rest in a sitting position. As they were not allowed to move or speak, radial artery pulse conditions were measured on the lower arm of each subject by means of the pulse analyzer under investigation. Two Korean medical doctors, who did not know the default pulse conditions, were instructed to intuitively choose the best condition one in comparison with the 13 default pulse conditions. Subsequently, we analyzed the differences in results between interpreters and between interpreters and the pulse analyzer.

Results: The total concordance rates, with similar concordance rates being included, between interpreters, between interpreter A and the pulse analyzer, and between interpreter B and the pulse analyzer was 56.4%, 79.5%, and 71.8% respectively. Interpreter A and B selected 6 and 7 cases of a faint, fine, weak (微細弱脈) pulse, agreeing with each other in 5 of the cases and with the pulse analyzer in 8 of the 13 cases.

Conclusions: In the case of a skipping pulse 2 (促2脈), a short pulse (短脈), and a faint • fine • weak pulse (微細弱脈), the concordance between interpreters matches with the concordance between interpreters and the pulse analyzer. The concordance rate goes is higher for such smaller pulse conditions as faint • fine • weak pulse (微細弱脈) and short pulse (短脈).

Key Words: pulse analyser; pulse condition; faint • fine • weak pulse (微細弱脈); skipping pulse 2 (促2脈); short pulse (短脈)

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Effect of Egg White Combined with Chalcanthite on Lipopolysaccharide induced Inflammatory Cytokine Expression in RAW 264.7 cells

Eun-A. Choi, Jeung-Won Yoon, Hak-Joo Choi, Dong-Hee Kim, Hwa-Seung Yoo

Abstract

Aim: Historically, mineral compound herbal medicines have long been used in treatments of immune-related diseases in Korea, China and other Asian countries. In this study, we investigated the anti-inflammatory effect of egg white combined with chalcanthite (IS4) on lipopolysaccharide (LPS)-stimulated RAW 264.7 cells.

Methods: RAW 264.7 cells cultured with LPS and various concentrations of IS4 were analyzed to determine the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines and mediators by using enzyme-linked immune sorbent assays (ELISAs).

Results: IS4 concentration inhibited the production of interleukin-1beta (IL-1β), interleukin-6 (IL-6), and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) induced by LPS. IS4 at high concentrations (25 and 50 µg/mL) inhibited, in concentration-dependent manner, the expression of tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) stimulated by LPS.

Conclusion: IS4 has shown an anti-inflammatory effect in RAW 264.7 cells.

Key Words: cytokine; GM-CSF; IL-1β; IL-6; lipopolysaccharide; TNF-α

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