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A Study on the Temperature Measurement of Warm Needling Using Stainless-steel Needles and Gold Needles

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Abstract

Objectives: The warm-needling technique is a method that combines the effects of acupuncture needling with those of moxibustion. We need to standardize the characteristics of the warm-needling technique in order to get more systematic and objective results on the procedure and the effects, thereby improving clinical abilities in these areas.

Methods: In this study, using the Labview system with the warm-needling technique, we measured and compared partial temperature changes according to the kind of needle. We studied relations between moxa cones of various sizes and the peak combustion temperature.

Results and Conclusions: When we measured the warm-needling’s partial temperature, for the temperatures measured at 1 and 2 cm below the head, the peak temperatures obtained with the gold needles were higher than those obtained with the SS304 stainless-steel needles. In the case of combustion of the moxa cones, cones weighing 0.4 g and 0.8 g, respectively, and the apex ignition method with gold needles showed a better result than the apex ignition method with stainless-steel needles when we measured the effective stimulus time at 2 cm below the head and the mean temperature during the effective stimulus time. Although more research to standardize the characteristics of the warm-needling technique will be needed, we suggest, according to these results, that warm needling with gold needles, combined with a moxa cone of 0.4 or 0.8 g, is effective.

Keywords: acupuncture, gold needle, temperature of moxibustion, warmed needle


Influence of Bioelectric Current on Acupuncture: A Pilot Study Focusing on the Effect of PC6 Against Heart Rate

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Abstract

Objectives: Many studies have investigated the electric specificities of meridians and acupoints. However, a definition of the real substance of 'Ki (Qi)', which flows in the meridian, has not been established yet. The authors hypothesized that the 'Ki (Qi)’ might be the very 'bioelectricity' of Western medicine based on their having two common features: both are not visible to the naked eye, and both function only in a living body.

Methods: Twenty healthy adults participated in this study. The heart rate was measured before and after exercise. In the first experiment, acupuncture was performed at PC6 immediately after exercise with counter balance. In the second experiment, the acupuncture group was further divided into the three groups, i.e., the glove acupuncture group, the manual acupuncture group, and the NaCl acupuncture group. In the glove group, the acupuncturist put on two folds of latex gloves to block bioelectric currents from flowing between the acupuncturist and the subject. In the NaCl group, the acupuncturist had his fingertips wet with NaCl solution.

Results: Exercise increased the heart rate, and acupuncture at PC6 inhibited this increase. In the second experiment, the experimental group with the greatest difference from the control group was the NaCl acupuncture group, and the experimental group with the least difference was the glove acupuncture group. However, no statistically significant differences were observed between three groups.

Conclusions: The results of this study seem not to provide conclusive evidence for the hypothesis that the ‘Ki(Qi)’ of Korean medicine is the ‘bioelectricity’ of Western medicine.

Key words: acupoint, acupuncture, bioelectricity, Ki, meridian, Qi


Effect of Moxibustion at Junggeuk (CV3) and Singwol (CV8) on Women’s Urinary Incontinence and Quality of Life

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Abstract

Objectives: This study examined the effects of moxibustion at Junggeuk (CV3) and Singwol (CV8) on women’s urinary incontinence and quality of life. The study is research based on the non-equivalent control group pretest-posttest design.

Methods: The subjects of the study were 45 women who were being treated at either of 2 health clinics located in Ulsan. They were sampled in accordance with predetermined standards and then divided into the experimental and the control groups, respectively, consisting of 22 and 23 members. In treating those women through moxibustion, this researcher applied 2 sheets of ‘shingigu’ to each of the women for 40 min each treatment. This experiment was conducted every two days over a period of two weeks, for a total of 6 treatments. Data from all of the measurements were statistically processed and analyzed using SPSS/WIN 12.0. Demographic characteristics of the subjects were examined and were indicated in terms of frequency and percentage. The homogeneity test of the two groups was conducted using the χ²-test, Fisher’s exact test, t-test and Mann-Whitney U Test. Hypotheses set for the study were verified through the t-test and the Mann-Whitney U Test.

Results: The experimental group treated with moxibustion showed urinary incontinence of less severity than the control group whose member had not been treated using moxibustion (p < 0.001). In addition, the experimental group treated with moxibustion showed a higher quality-of-life score than the control group (U = 42.00, p < 0.001).

Conclusions: These findings suggest that moxibustion may be an effective intervention for women having urinary incontinence because it treats the symptom with no adverse effect and it is non-invasive and easily to apply.

Key words: Junggeuk (CV3), moxibustion, quality of life, Singwol (CV8), urinary incontinence

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Clinical Study of Lumbar Spine Stenosis Treated by Using Acupotomy Combined with Oriental Medical Treatments

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