

Background: In recent years, appearance and beauty have become the main interests in the medical area. In clinical Korean medicine, a variety of methods such as moxibustion, superficial bleeding, multiple microneedling, facial meridian massage, herbal medicine facial packs, laser acupuncture, and intense pulsed light (IPL) have been applied.

Methods and Results: Pilosis, a condition of abnormal hair growth, was discussed for the first time in the publication, "Pathogenesis and Manifestations of All Diseases" by Chao Yuan-fang in 610 A.D, which shows that pilosis has been recognised as a disease for ages in Asia. Reviewing several publications, we found that multiple approaches to pilosis existed in Korean medicine, including internal medicinal classification and medications. Acupuncture treatments also focused on regulation of radical causes and superficial removal of abnormal hairs. Specific treatments included body and ear acupuncture, ear acupressure, hypodermic acupuncture, hypodermic acupuncture injection and laser acupuncture treatment. Physical and chemical methods of hair removal were developed and widely used. We found that significant scientific approaches to pilosis are underway in Korean medicine and that a variety of medical treatments such as herbal medicines and dermatological methods.

Conclusions: Hair removal treatments for pilosis in traditional medicine have a long history. Combined with advanced modern technology, such treatment can achieve greater advances in cosmetology.

Key words: pilosis; hair removal; acupuncture; laser; Korean traditional medicine

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Study of the Methodology for the Clinical Effect of Single-point Acupuncture in Patients with Hypertension

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Abstract

Objectives: This study was conducted to investigate an effective treatment-point selection method by using oppressive pain in acupoints as an elementary attempt to establish standard methodology for clinical acupuncture studies.

Methods: Twenty-seven subjects with hypertension or within the prehypertension category - systolic and diastolic blood pressure (BP) over 120/80 mmHg - were divided into two groups, oppressive-pain point-treatment group and oppressive painless point treatment group. In the oppressive-pain point-treatment group, single-point acupuncture (SPA) was conducted for 16 sessions during 8 weeks on the most oppressive painful point among 6 selected acupuncture points used in previous trials. As a SPA intervention, 15 minutes with deqi sensation-elevating manipulation was conducted on the treatment acupoint. The same process was used for the oppressive-painless point-treatment group on the most oppressive painless point with subject blinding.

Results: Significant reductions were observed in both systolic and diastolic BP after short-time intervention (15.5/8.8 mmHg, 10.7/7.1 mmHg, $P < 0.05$, respectively at 1 week) and were maintained for the 8-week intervention period in both groups (12.8/8.0 mmHg, 19.4/12.6 mmHg, $P < 0.05$, respectively). No significant differences of BP changes between the oppressive-pain point-treatment group ($N = 10$) and the oppressive-painless point-treatment group ($N = 9$) were observed during the 8-week study period.

Conclusions: SPA treatment as used in this pilot study was effective for lowering BP in the mild hypertensive population, but oppressive pain in the acupoint had no effect on the treatment. This present result suggests the possibility of using SPA for the treatment of hypertension regardless of oppressive pain.

Key words: acupuncture; standard methodology; blood pressure; oppressive pain

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

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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 chalcantite (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).