

Australian Journal of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine

The AJACM is the official Journal of the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA). It is Australia's only peer-reviewed journal for the acupuncture and Chinese medicine profession.

The AJACM seeks to foster intellectual endeavour and academic exchange about the research and clinical practice of acupuncture and Chinese medicine and to promote quality in the provision of acupuncture and Chinese medicine clinical services.

Its primary focus is the publication of peer-reviewed articles that will enhance quality and diversity in acupuncture and Chinese medicine clinical practice and/or research and stimulate the exchange of ideas about clinical practice and the role of acupuncture and Chinese medicine in contemporary health care. The Journal also includes general articles that are relevant to its objectives as well as research summaries and book reviews.

The journal is to be published bi-annually from 2007. The first issue of the Journal (2006;1:1) will be complimentary with all 2007 subscriptions.



AJACM | subscribe for 2007

- AACMA members - Free as part of annual subscription
- Individual subscription - delivery within Australia \$50.00; overseas delivery \$75.00
- Institutions and libraries – price on application

All quoted prices are in Australian dollars and includes postage and relevant taxes.

Subscriber details Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss

Family Name _____ Given Names(s) _____

Position & Organisation (if relevant) _____

Delivery Address _____

State _____ Postcode/Zip _____ Country _____ Email _____

Payment Details Amount Paid \$ _____

Please find enclosed cheque/money order made out to AACMA OR charge my credit as follows:

Visa/MasterCard Diners Club AMEX Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date (MM/YY) ____/____ Signature: _____

Please forward cheque/money order payments (Australian personal cheques & money orders only; bank draft only for overseas cheque payments) to:
AACMA PO Box 5142, WEST END QLD 4101 AUSTRALIA Card payments can be forwarded by mail, or by fax to 07 3846 5276.

AJACM | editorial board

Dr Zhen Zheng, Editor-in-Chief
RMIT University

Dr Chris Zaslowski, Deputy Editor
University of Technology, Sydney

John Deare
Vice-President AACMA

Peter Ferrigno
Victoria University

Dr Damien Ryan
Victoria University

A/Prof Caroline Smith
University of Western Sydney

AJACM | contacts

Subscriptions

p: + 61 7 38456 5866 ext 10
f: 61 7 3846 5276
e: aacma@acupuncture.org.au
w: www.acupuncture.org.au/ajacm.cfm

Submissions

p: + 61 7 38456 5866 ext 17
f: + 61 7 3846 5276
e: ajacm@acupuncture.org.au
w: www.acupuncture.org.au/ajacm.cfm

Advertising

p: + 61 7 38456 5866 ext 16
f: + 61 7 3846 5276
e: publications@acupuncture.org.au
w: www.acupuncture.org.au/ajacm.cfm

AJACM | articles

SELECTED ABSTRACTS AND KEYWORDS FROM *AJACM* 2006 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1

Acupuncture for Migraine: A Systematic Review

Sean W. Scott and John C. Deare

Background: Migraine is a highly prevalent and often severely disabling disorder. Migraine patients often employ therapies such as acupuncture. To date a systematic review of acupuncture for migraine headache alone has not been published. Given that migraine has a pathophysiology that is distinct from other headaches, it is appropriate and timely that the studies of acupuncture for the treatment of migraine be systematically reviewed.

Objectives: To determine whether acupuncture is: more effective than no treatment for migraine, more effective than 'sham' or placebo acupuncture for migraine, or as effective as other interventions used to treat and prevent migraine.

Selection criteria: Randomised controlled trials of needle acupuncture that breaks the skin for migraine headache.

Data collection: The authors used a standardised collection form to abstract data independently. Information on acupuncture protocol, STRICTA criteria, methodological quality (Jadad, IVS) and treatment outcomes were collected.

Results: Twenty-five studies with a total of 3004 patients (median = 62; range = 30–794) met the inclusion criteria. Three trials compared acupuncture to waiting list. Eleven trials compared acupuncture to sham acupuncture studies. The results were heterogeneous. Five studies found no significant effects over the sham procedure. Four studies reported a trend in favour of acupuncture. The remaining two small studies reported results in which the acupuncture group did significantly better than those in the sham group. Thirteen studies compared acupuncture to various pharmacotherapies and all found acupuncture to be at least as effective as drug treatment.

Conclusion: The current evidence suggests that acupuncture is significantly superior to waiting list; at least as good as sham acupuncture; and of comparable efficiency to several proven drug therapies for the treatment and prevention of migraine.

KEYWORDS: acupuncture, migraine, headache.

The Use of Evidence in Acupuncture Clinical Practice

J. Damien Ryan

This paper reports on a qualitative study of beginner acupuncture clinicians' experiences of clinical practice. An analysis of the 42 interview transcripts revealed that these practitioners relied primarily upon traditional, experiential and reflexive knowledge in clinical decision-making. None of the practitioners interviewed used evidence arising from formal research in clinical practice decision-making. A subsequent review of acupuncture research reports showed that most acupuncture research had been undertaken to prove the therapeutic efficacy of acupuncture rather than generate knowledge that could be used to inform clinical decision-making. This paper suggests that the dominant acupuncture research emphasis of proving therapeutic efficacy, compounded with a paucity of research-generated knowledge relevant to acupuncture clinical decision-making, has been detrimental to the development of evidence-based acupuncture practice. The paper proposes that partnerships between researchers and practitioners are essential in developing research that informs practice, improves the quality of practice and leads to the heightened use of evidence in acupuncture clinical decision-making.

KEYWORDS: acupuncture, evidence-based practice, clinical practice, research.

Oculomotor Palsy Treated with Electroacupuncture: A Case Report

Yong-Suk Kim

Oculomotor palsy is a mononeuropathy, which causes sudden unilateral ptosis and double vision. It often affects older people who have concurrent diabetes and/or hypertension. Oculomotor palsy generally resolves over three to four months as regeneration of affected nerve fibres is common. There is no effective biomedical treatment. In this report, I present a 76-year-old man who experienced left-sided oculomotor-nerve palsy. Biomedical intervention had been unsuccessful and electroacupuncture led to complete symptom relief after four weeks of treatment.

KEYWORDS: electroacupuncture, oculomotor nerve palsy, case report.