

COMMUNICATION LIBRE

CL4 - ELECTRO-ACUPUNCTURE AS A COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY IN ODONTOSTOMATOLOGY

Angeja AM,¹ Coelho JA,¹ Mendes JM,¹ Larangeira E,² Pacheco JJ,¹ Ustrell JM³

¹Centro de Investigação em Ciências da Saúde, Instituto Superior de Ciências da Saúde –Norte (ISCS-N), Rua Central de Gandra, 1317, 4585- 116, Gandra, Portugal. ² Local Health Unit, Matosinhos Hospital, Matosinhos, Portugal ³ Orthodontics Service, Department of Odontostomatology, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Keywords

Electro-acupuncture, oral surgery, adjuvant treatment

INTRODUCTION

Pain is common and frequent human experience, often defined as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage. A subjective and complex phenomenon, pain is responsible for significant discomfort and psychosocial morbidity. A paradigmatic example of such circumstances is that which is associated with surgical procedures involving the soft and hard tissues of the face and oral cavity. Although various therapeutic agents are available to alleviate or neutralize pain, analgesic drugs often associate with adverse side effects according to the patient's physical and psychological condition. Acupuncture is a widely used therapeutic method in the management of pain and cure of certain illnesses, achieved through application of needle stimuli to specific points in the skin.

AIMS

To review the physiological effects and therapeutic efficacy of acupuncture on pain mechanisms, as well as to demonstrate its employability as a co-adjuvant therapy in stomatology and allied fields.

METHODOLOGY

The search was done in an electronic search database (PUBMED) commencing January 1995 and ceasing December 2010, using the

DISCUSSION:

Widely employed among oriental medicine, only recently has acupuncture gained acceptability amongst medical practitioners in the Occident.

Although proven to be an effective analgesic and rarely contra-indicated it is generally omitted from dental practice. In part due to the lack of formal training and diffusion.

CONCLUSION

Evidence that support of the therapeutic effectiveness of electro-acupuncture stimulation has reached a wide consensus. Needle electro stimulation-induced analgesia not only prolongs the anesthetic effect of standard anesthetic drugs, it also lowers effective dose administration. Additionally, it lowers the need for postoperative analgesic intake. The global benefit being that it reduces the risk of complications.

REFERENCES:

1. Iorio RC, Alvarenga AT, Yamamura Y. Acupuntura no Currículo Médico: Visão de Estudantes de Graduação em Medicina. Rev Bras Educ Med 2004; 28:223-33.
2. Campbell A. The origins of acupuncture. Acupuncture Med. 2002; 20:141
3. National Institutes of Health. Consensus development panel on acupuncture. J Am Med Ass 1998; 280:1518-24.
4. Lao L, Bergman S, Hamilton GR, Langenberg P, Berman B. Evaluation of acupuncture for pain control after oral surgery. Arch Otolaryngol Head Neck Surg. 1999; 125:267-72.
5. Pohodenko-Chudakova IO. Acupuncture analgesia and its application in cranio-maxillofacial surgical procedures. J Craniomaxillofac Surg. 2005;33:118-22.
6. Povolny B. Acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine: an overview. Techniques in Regional Anesthesia and Pain Management, v.12, n.2, p.109-10, 2008.