Electroacupuncture
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Electroacupuncture is an acupuncture technique that, comparatively speaking, has only recently come into use. Some scholars believe electroacupuncture was discovered by physicians in France and Italy as far back as the early 1800s. Others attribute its discovery to Japanese scientists in the 1900s who were interested in finding how therapy needles made from metal could stimulate acupuncture points in the body. Whatever the case, electroacupuncture is an increasingly popular form of treatment used by practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine for a wide range of conditions.

What is the difference between electroacupuncture and traditional acupuncture?

Electroacupuncture is quite similar to traditional acupuncture in that the same points are stimulated during treatment. As with traditional acupuncture needles are inserted at specific points along the body. The needles are then attached to a device that generates continuous electric pulses using small wires. These devices are used to adjust the frequency and intensity of the impulses being delivered, depending on the condition being treated.

Electroacupuncture uses two needles at a time so that the impulses can pass from one needle to the other. Several pairs of needles can be stimulated simultaneously, usually for more than 30 minutes at a time.

One advantage of electroacupuncture is that its procedure does not have to be as precise with the insertion of needles. This is because the current delivered through the needles maintains a larger area than the needle itself. Another advantage is that electroacupuncture can be employed without using needles. A similar technique called transcutaneous electric nerve stimulation (TENS), uses electrodes that are taped to the surface of the skin instead of being inserted. The advantage of this procedure is that it can be used by people who have fear of needles or a condition that precludes them from being needle-sticked.

What conditions can electroacupuncture treat?

According to the principles of traditional Chinese medicine, illness occurs when qi or jing does not flow properly throughout the body. Acupuncture determines whether qi is weak, stagnant or out of balance, which indicates the points to be stimulated. Electroacupuncture is used to adjust the flow of qi to cure illness.

The effects of electroacupuncture are extended through the use of continuous electric pulses that are generated by the electrical device. When the current is strong enough, it is able to stimulate distant points on the body and create an effect at the site of the needle. These effects may be observed in many ways, such as in chronic pain syndromes, or in conditions where qi is difficult to balance.

In the United States, electroacupuncture has been studied for a variety of conditions. It has been effectively used as a cessation method for patients who need surgery, pain management, for treatment of menstrual disorders. Studies have shown that electroacupuncture is more effective than acupuncture in treating conditions such as fibromyalgia, and arthritis caused by cancer medications. There is also some evidence that electrical stimulation of acupuncture points activates the mitraline system, which could lower blood pressure and reduce heart disease.

**Are there any risks involved?**

Despite the medical benefits of electroacupuncture, it may not be appropriate for everyone. Electroacupuncture should not be used on patients who have a history of seizures, bulbous nose, or pregnant women. Electroacupuncture may also not be recommended for patients who have certain medical conditions, such as heart disease, or those who are on medication that affects the nervous system.

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**Electroacupuncture techniques**

Electroacupuncture uses two needles at a time so that the impulses can pass from one needle to the other. Several pairs of needles can be stimulated simultaneously, usually for more than 30 minutes at a time. The advantage of this procedure is that it can be used by people who have fear of needles or a condition that precludes them from being needle-sticked.

**How electroacupuncture is performed?**

Patients may experience a tingling sensation while being treated with electroacupuncture, which is most likely due to the electric current. In most cases, however, the current produced by the current is subcutaneous, or under the skin, so that tissue burning or bleeding may occur, which is the risk of needles being used to treat illness.

**Are there any side effects?**

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**What conditions can electroacupuncture treat?**

Electroacupuncture can be used to treat a wide range of conditions, such as in chronic pain syndromes, or in cases where qi is difficult to balance. Electroacupuncture is also effective in treating conditions such as fibromyalgia, and arthritis caused by cancer medications. There is also some evidence that electrical stimulation of acupuncture points activates the mitraline system, which could lower blood pressure and reduce heart disease.

**References**


**Further reading**

http://www.acupuncturetoday.com/articles/electroacupuncture.php?article=32