

Digestion-specific acupuncture effect on feeding intolerance in critically ill post-operative oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients: A single-blind randomized control trial

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Critically ill oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients after a composite resection and flap reconstruction often require enteral nutrition support in order to meet their nutritional needs and prevent malnutrition. Following the surgery, the postoperative feeding goal is to reach up to 100% of the patient's daily target energy expenditure by the 4th postoperative day. It is common for postoperative oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients to reach their target energy expenditure after 7-10 days and even longer. Acupuncture had shown the potential to treat postoperative indigestion in previous reports. The study goal is to investigate the role of acupuncture in treating indigestion in the study population using a randomized control single-blind design. The study included an interventional group and a control group. Both groups received daily acupuncture intervention for a total of 3 treatments session in 3 days. The acupuncture points used in the intervention group were points that are indicated to treat indigestion-related conditions. The points used in the control group did not have any indication to treat indigestion. Apart from the intervention of acupuncture, both groups received routine ICU care. The main study outcome was the number of days

it takes a patient to reach the target energy expenditure. A total of 26 patients completed the intervention, 13 patients in each group. All included patients were males. There were no significant changes between the groups at baseline. After completing the intervention, the patients in the treatment group reached 80% of the target energy expenditure significantly earlier than the control group. In addition, the patients in the intervention group used significantly less Metoclopramide compared to the control group.

In conclusion, the addition of acupuncture (on indigestion points) to routine ICU care helped prevent postoperative feeding intolerance in critically ill oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients.

Biography

Eyal Ben-Arie Ph.D. is a researcher in the field of acupuncture and Chinese medicine. He recently finished his Ph.D. studies at China medical university, Taiwan. In recent years his research was focused on the applications of acupuncture on critically ill patients.

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