

Effect of Electroacupuncture at SP6 Acupoint on Mice after Delivery

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During the puerperal period the new mother is subject to manifest a series of pathologies related with the delivery and the passage of the fetus thru the delivery channel. It's hypothesized that the Vanilloid receptor TrpV1 is involved in cervix ripening and labor pain. Many evidences suggest that acupuncture treatment in the post partum have a critical role in cervix pain relieve.

The aim of this study is to investigate the relation and mechanisms between acupuncture on SP6 (San-Yin-Jiao) and the expression of the pain related cervix molecules such as TrpV1 and the effects on puerperal pathologic conditions.

We investigated the presence and distribution of TrpV1 in murine vagina, urinary bladder, corpus and cervix uteri, using Western blotting method. We also analyzed the urinary Leaking Pressure Point (LPP) to investigate the healing effect of acupuncture on the postpartum perineal injuries.

Three different groups consisting of six to eight mice were studied: Electro Acupuncture (EA) group were treated with electro acupuncture in the next five days after delivery; After Delivery (AD) group consisted of mice that delivered in the previous five days; Control (CO) group consist of female mice that never delivered before.

In our preliminary study the comparison between AD and CO groups shows that the LPP in AD group (mean 34.8 mm Hg) is significantly lower than the one in the CO group (mean 39.4 mm Hg) demonstrating that the incidence of urinary incontinence is higher after delivery. In contrast with this statement EA group's LPP shows a high LPP score (mean 40.7 mm Hg). This result shows that the application of electroacupuncture at SP6 after delivery is an effective preventive treatment that leads to a better quality of life for the new mothers. Furthermore our Western blot assay will add evidences that will clarify the acupuncture's effect mechanisms involved in pregnancy and puerperal period.

Key words: TrpV1, SP6, leaking pressure point