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THE EFFECT OF ACUPUNCTURE FOR HOSPITALIZED PATIENTS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN TAIWAN: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

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Introduction: The aim of our study is to investigate the effect of acupuncture on hospitalized patients with traumatic brain injury (TBI) in Taiwan. We analyzed hospitalized patients of TBI who consulted for acupuncture therapy in China Medical University Hospital in 2014.

Methods: 44 TBI patients in China Medical University Hospital consulted for acupuncture therapy during hospitalization need to match the including criteria. Patients who have been diagnosis for TBI within three months and need to accept acupuncture 3 times per week until they discharged from hospital.

In the beginning of treatment, we record Revised trauma score (RTS) and Glasgow coma scale (GCS) score of patients. When patients discharged from hospital, we record these two scores again. And analyzed the changes of RTS and GCS score. Paired T test was used and p value<0.05 was thought statistically significant.

Results: After acupuncture therapy, we found that there are statistically significant improvements in RTS and GCS score(p-value=0.0002). TBI patients received more times of acupuncture treatment had more improvement in RTS score and GCS score(p-value=0.0002). More than ten times(including ten) of acupuncture treatments have a statistically significant improvements in RTS and GCS score (p-value=0.0297). The duration of TBI onset to first-time acupuncture therapy was shorter, there are more improvement in RTS and GCS score(p-value=0.0002).

Discussion and Conclusions:

Acupuncture was effective in enhancing recovery and increasing RTS and GCS score. RTS and GCS score can improve when patients receive more times of acupuncture treatment and consult acupuncture as soon as they suffering from traumatic brain injury. Limitations included small

sample size and no comparable group. Larger sample size and randomize control trials are needed to confirm the effect of acupuncture. Acupuncture is a really an effective option that may help to improve recovery on hospitalized patients of TBI.

key words: traumatic brain injury, acupuncture

