

Acupuncture for heart disease patients

Kai Wang^{1,2}, Man Tang¹, Lan Ouyang¹ and Qiuyun Liu¹

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Dear Sirs,

Acupuncture has been successfully used in treating numerous human diseases in the practices of traditional Chinese medicine.^{1,2} However, the mechanism underlying its effects is not well understood. Proton traffic and ion traffic may be abnormal in many patients, including heart disease patients, resulting in higher or lower than normal osmotic pressures. The changed cell volumes or/and cell swelling have negative consequences on human health. Acupuncture may be able to alter osmotic pressures via the channels created by a needle, leading to the adjustment of cell volumes and improvement of cell swelling.³ The changed anion traffic by acupuncture may help dissolve insoluble and rigid salts such as calcium oxalate in the body,⁴⁻⁶ improving the conditions of the heart. The combination of acupuncture with western medicine may be necessary to bring about the best clinical outcomes and maximize health benefits.

Author contribution

QL contributed to conception and design of the work. QL, KW, MT and LO contributed to the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data for the work. QL and KW drafted the manuscript. KW, MT and LO critically revised the manuscript. All gave final approval and agree to be accountable for all aspects of work ensuring integrity and accuracy.

Declaration of conflicting interests

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¹Biomedical Center, Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Improved Variety Reproduction in Aquatic Economic Animals, State Key Laboratory of Biocontrol, Lab of Microbial Metabolic Engineering and Synthetic Biology, School of Life Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, China
²Division of Life Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China

Corresponding author:

Qiuyun Liu, School of Life Sciences, Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou 510275, China.

Email: lsslyq@mail.sysu.edu.cn