

18. Symptoms and Signs

Reference

Kim JJ, Kim EJ, Lee SH, et al. Antipyretic effect of blood-letting at the Sybsun-points on fever comparing with aspirin injection. *Daehan-Hanbang-Naegwa-Hakhoeji (Korean Journal of Oriental Internal Medicine)* 2003; 24(3): 675–80 (in Korean with English abstract).

1. Objectives

To evaluate the effect of venesection at the Sybsun-point (十宣穴) on fever.

2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

3. Setting

One Oriental hospital (Kyunghee University Medical Center), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants

Twenty-four patients hospitalized in an Oriental hospital between 1 March 2002 to 31 December 2002, with armpit body temperature over 38°C sequentially measured by mercury thermometer.

5. Intervention

Arm 1: venesection (1–2 cc) using a three-edged needle (三稜鍼) at the Sybsun-point. Allowed tepid water massage (n=13).

Arm 2: intravenous injection of aspirin lysine 250 mg. Allowed tepid water massage (n=11).

Three subjects (Arm 1) dropped out of the study.

6. Main outcome measures

Mean armpit body temperature measured twice just before treatment, and 2 and 8 hours after treatment.

7. Main results

1) All the patients showed a drop in body temperature with the passage of time, and there was no statistically significant between-group difference in temperature drop at 2 and 8 hours after treatment.

2) In Arm 2, the body temperature dropped about 1°C 2 hours after treatment and stayed the same or rose slightly 8 hours after treatment; in Arm 1, it dropped about 0.7°C 2 hours after treatment and a further 0.6°C thereafter.

8. Conclusions

Both venesection at the Sybsun-point and aspirin injection therapy lower, to a similar extent, body temperature in patients with fever.

9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor's comments

Although the patients were randomized to each group, the spectrum of diseases causing fever differed between the groups. Since this difference could influence the study result, the analysis should have been carried out after stratification by disease, or the effect of venesection on fever should have been evaluated for each disease. Venesection was shown to significantly reduce fever, but in-depth study is needed to determine its mechanism of action.

11. Abstractor and date

Cho JH, 16 July 2010.