

13. Diseases of the Musculo Skeletal System and Connective Tissue

Reference

Lee TH, Hwang HS, Chang SY, et al. The comparison of effectiveness between bee venom and sweet bee venom therapy on low back pain with radiating pain. *Daehan-Yakchim-Hakhoeji (Journal of Pharmacopuncture)* 2007; 10(3): 85–9 (in Korean with English abstract).

1. Objectives

To compare the effect of sweet bee venom acupuncture and bee venom acupuncture on low back pain with radiating pain.

2. Design

Double-blinded randomized controlled trial (DB-RCT).

3. Setting

One Oriental hospital (Semyung University Oriental Medicine Hospital at Chungju), Republic of Korea.

4. Participants

Patients with low back pain with radiating pain (n=24).

5. Intervention

Arm 1: Sweet bee venom (SBV) acupuncture + conventional acupuncture (n=14).

Arm 2: Bee venom (BV) acupuncture + conventional acupuncture (n=10).

6. Main outcome measures

Pain self-assessed on a visual analogue scale (VAS) and functional change assessed by the straight leg raising test (SLRT).

7. Main results

Both treatments resulted in similar levels of pain relief and functional improvement.

8. Conclusions

Sweet bee venom acupuncture and bee venom acupuncture have similar efficacy for low back pain with radiating pain.

9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

10. Abstractor's comments

Blinding and randomization were well maintained. However, issues including informed consent and verification of the side effects were insufficiently addressed. Initial values were thought to be close to normal, and no statistically meaningful results were obtained.

11. Abstractor and date

Kim HJ, 17 August 2010.