

## 9. Cardiovascular Diseases

### Reference

Lee SH, Kim JK, Son YH, et al. A clinical study of moxibustion therapy's effect on functional recovery in hemiplegia on stroke. *Daehan-Hanbang-Naegwa-Hakhoeji (Korean Journal of Oriental Internal Medicine)* 2008; 29(1): 278–84 (in Korean with English abstract).

### 1. Objectives

To evaluate the effectiveness of moxibustion stimulation for recovery of function in patients with hemiplegia after stroke.

### 2. Design

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

### 3. Setting

One Oriental hospital (Oriental Medical Hospital of Dongeui Universtiy), Republic of Korea.

### 4. Participants

Forty-two hemiplegic stroke patients with functional independence scores of 11–35 within 8 weeks since onset. The lesion were in the middle cerebral artery or basilar artery.

### 5. Intervention

Arm 1: Conservative therapy + moxibustion for 6 weeks applied to the Hegu (LI4, 合谷), Waiguan (TE5, 外關), Quchi (LI11, 曲池), Taichong (LR3, 太冲), Xuanzhong (GB39, 懸鐘), Zusanli (ST36, 足三里) acupuncture points (n=21).

Arm 2: Conservative therapy only (n=21).

### 6. Main outcome measures

Functional independence measure (FIM).

### 7. Main results

Decrease in FIM score was significantly greater in Arm 1 (19.3±9.9 to 44.7±12.5) than Arm 2 (19.9±10.8 to 36.5±10.7) ( $P=0.001$ ).

### 8. Conclusions

Moxibustion may improve the functional recovery of hemiplegic patients after stroke.

### 9. Safety assessment in the article

Not mentioned.

### 10. Abstractor's comments

This study evaluated the effectiveness of moxibustion for improving the functional recovery of hemiplegic patients after stroke. It is suggested that moxibustion has efficacy in stroke patients. However, the small number of patients, the effectiveness of conservative therapy, and lack of long term treatment were limitations of the study. Therefore an additional clinical trial is needed.

### 11. Abstractor and date

Go HY, 18 July 2010.