

- Title** Acupuncture for Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea and Vomiting in Cancer Patients
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Aim

To assess the efficacy/effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness of acupuncture for relieving chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) in cancer patients

Conclusions and results**Acupuncture:**

There was evidence to suggest that acupuncture has positive effect on acute vomiting for CINV in cancer patients. However, there were patients in two studies who reported pain from needling during acupuncture

Acupressure:

There was evidence to suggest that acupressure has beneficial on acute nausea as well as the severity of vomiting and nausea for CINV in cancer patients. However, the effect of acupressure on delayed nausea and the frequency of vomiting and nausea were inconclusive. Nevertheless, there were two studies reported on adverse events of using wristbands as acupressure including tightness in the area of wristbands, feeling uncomfortable when wearing them with minor swelling in the wristbands area, skin eczema, skin irritation, hematoma when wearing acupressure bands.

Electro-acupuncture:

There was evidence to suggest that electro-acupuncture also has positively reduced episodes of emesis but not on acute vomiting for CINV in cancer patients. There were adverse events reported as a result of the electro-acupuncture or minimal needling procedure including an electrical shock sensation, an aggravating tingling sensation following each needling procedure and severe headache for 24 hours.

Recommendations (if any)

Based on the above review, for relieving CINV in cancer patients:

- Acupuncture may be used for acute vomiting
- Acupressure may be used for acute nausea
- Electro-acupuncture may be used for episodes of vomiting

Methods

Electronic databases were searched, which included PubMed, Medline, Journal @ Ovid full text via OVID, OVID EBM Reviews - Cochrane central register of controlled trials, EBM Reviews - Cochrane database of systematic review, Horizon scanning databases - Centre, Birmingham, Australia

and New Zealand Horizon scanning (ANZHSN), FDA website, MHRA website and from non-scientific database - Google search engine. In addition, a cross-referencing of the articles retrieved was also carried out accordingly to the topic. Relevant articles were critically appraised and evidence graded using US/Canadian Preventive Services Task Force.

Further research/reviews required

Studies on cost-effectiveness is warranted

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