
Acupuncture: Applications to OR Anesthesia and Pain Management

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Background: Acupuncture plays a key role in Eastern medicine.^{1,2} Of interest to the anesthesiologist is its ability to provide both acute and chronic pain control.^{1,2,3} The author will be attending a training course in pain acupuncture during April in Beijing, and has arranged to visit several hospitals and clinics where it is extensively practiced. Patients and acupuncturists will be interviewed. The surgical and anesthetic procedures will be observed and video taped. The author hopes to bring back clinical examples demonstrating the application of acupuncture to OR anesthesia, obstetric analgesia, and in chronic pain cases including cancer patients. Along with the case presentations, the basic theory of acupuncture, as well as modern research projects on its mechanism of action, will be discussed.

Case Reports: Specific topics to be announced.

Discussion: In China, acupuncture serves as an alternative to conventional pharmacological management of acute and chronic pain. It holds the promise of improved outcomes through avoidance of drug complications, reduced costs, and shortened recovery time.^{1,3} Although there are cases where acupuncture may not apply,¹ the recognition and employment of this ancient craft will open doors to many new, exciting possibilities and further our knowledge of the intricate phenomenon of pain.⁴

References:

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