

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: Effect of acupuncture on patients with mild cognitive impairment assessed using functional near-infrared spectroscopy: A pilot study protocol

Authors: Eun-Sun Jung, Jun-Hwan Lee, Hyun-Tae Kim, Sang-Soo Park, Ji-Eun Ki, Ji-Yoon Cha, In-Chan Seol, Young-Eun Choi, Ho-Ryong Yo



PII: S2213-4220(18)30124-0  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.imr.2018.06.002>  
Reference: IMR 314

To appear in:

Received date: 2-5-2018  
Revised date: 10-6-2018  
Accepted date: 12-6-2018

Please cite this article as: { <https://doi.org/>

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## **Study Protocol**

### **Effect of acupuncture on patients with mild cognitive impairment assessed using functional near-infrared spectroscopy: A pilot study protocol**

Eun-Sun Jung, KMD<sup>a†</sup>, Jun-Hwan Lee, PhD KMD<sup>b†</sup>, Hyun-Tae Kim, Ph.D KMD<sup>a</sup>, Sang-Soo Park, Ph.D<sup>a</sup>, Ji-Eun Kim, Ph.D<sup>b</sup>, Ji-Yoon Cha, KMD<sup>a</sup>, In-Chan Seol, PhD, KMD<sup>a</sup>, Young-Eun Choi<sup>b</sup>, Ho-Ryong Yoo, PhD KMD<sup>a\*</sup>

<sup>†</sup> Authors who contributed equally to the work

<sup>a</sup>Department of Internal Korean Medicine, Dunsan Korean Medicine Hospital of Daejeon University, 1136 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea;

<sup>b</sup>Clinical Research Division, Korean Institute of Oriental Medicine, Daejeon, Republic of Korea

#### **\*Corresponding Author**

Ho-Ryong Yoo, PhD KMD,

Department of Internal Korean Medicine, Dunsan Korean Medicine Hospital of Daejeon University, 1136 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

Telephone: 82-10-2474-2004

Fax: 82-42-470-9008

E-mail: medicdragon@daum.net

#### **Abstract**

**Background:** Currently, there is no clearly established therapy to treat mild cognitive impairment (MCI); consequently, alternative therapies, such as acupuncture, have been attempted. In many clinical studies, the potential benefits of acupuncture for cognitive improvement have been identified in clinical outcomes; however, the mechanism remains unclear. Accordingly, this study aims to investigate the therapeutic mechanism of acupuncture therapy using functional near-infrared spectroscopy and its feasibility in treating individuals with impaired cognitive function.

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