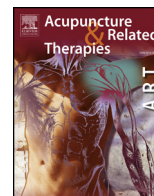




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Pneumothorax associated with acupuncture: A systematic review and analysis

Xiaoming Ying*, Peng Wang, Peng Xu, Bo Zhu

The Third Affiliated Hospital of Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, 219 Mogangshang Road, Hangzhou, China

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ABSTRACT

Objective: To review and analyze pneumothorax associated with acupuncture worldwide.
Methods: We searched MEDLINE, PUBMED, NHS, CNKI(China), VIP(China) and WanFang(China) using the MeSH terms “acupuncture” and “complications/adverse events/side effect” and “pneumothorax” for eligible articles. We included and analyzed all original case reports, reviews and prospective studies.
Results: There are 37 Chinese articles and 40 articles in other languages published with case report which reported 128 cases and 51 cases with pneumothorax induced by acupuncture, respectively. There are 24 articles with prospective studies or reviews. pneumothorax is the most common among the all severe adverse events related to acupuncture. However, acupuncture is an important cause of pneumothorax which is missing from the western medical books.
Conclusions: Acupuncture should be emphasized and listed in the western medical textbooks as an iatrogenic cause to pneumothorax.

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Acupuncture is an ancient procedure that has been practiced in China for thousands of years. Since the late 1970's, acupuncture has gained significant popularity worldwide. Western medical acupuncture involves the use of points to cause neural stimulation, which is proposed to block the pain gate control mechanism and to cause the production of endorphins [1]. More recently, it has gradually won acceptance in western countries as an alternative or complementary treatment for various conditions, including chronic pain syndrome [2–6]. A US study showed that among family practice patients who used Chinese medicine, 16% used acupuncture [7]. Family physicians use acupuncture for pain management, for

musculoskeletal conditions [8], for cancer [9], and for postoperative conditions [10,11]. Because of its widespread use, the safety of acupuncture is of increasing importance. In the past few years, adverse events associated with acupuncture treatment in foreign countries have been published in the form of systematic reviews or surveys [12–14]. In Norway, questionnaires were conducted among 1135 randomly selected doctors and 197 acupuncturists in 1995. 33 cases of pneumothorax occurred [15]. In 2000, the survey in Australia from 1100 traditional Chinese medical practitioners showed that 64 cases got pneumothorax after acupuncture [16]. However, acupuncture didn't get enough concern as one cause of iatrogenic pneumothorax so far in many countries, the cases with pneumothorax by acupuncture occur now and then. With this background, our objective was to systematically review the existing literature that reported or studied the cases with pneumothorax induced to acupuncture.

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: whiteantgo@tom.com (X. Ying).

Table 1
Case report in Chinese.

Authors	Year	Patients No.	Reasons for Acupuncture	Points or Position	Symptoms of pneumothorax	Therapies/Outcome
Zhang [17]	1954	A 40-year-old man	No mention	Gaohuang(B43)	Shock	Emergency treatment /Dead
No [18]	1957	An adult woman	No mention	Bilateral shoulder	Dyspnea	Emergency treatment /Dead
Guo [19]	1957	A 60-year-old man	Muscle soreness on the left subscapularis	Ashi acupoint	Chest pain, Shortness of breath	Chest drain /Recovery
Zhang [20]	1957	A 29-year-old man	Intercostal neuralgia	Feishu(B13), Xinshu(B15) Geshu(B17)	Cough, dyspnea and chest pain	Chest drain /Recovery
Ling [21]	1959	A 32-year-old man	Injury of the right shoulder	Feishu(B13)	Cough, shortness of breath and chest pain	No mention
Dong [22]	1959	A 22-year-old woman	Asthma	Shufu(K27)	Chest pain and tightness	Rest /Recovery
Wu [23]	1959	A 22-year-old man	Intercostal neuralgia	Shencang(K25)Xuanji(RN21) Danzhong(RN17)	Left chest pain and asthma	Chest drain /Recovery
Zhang [24]	1959	A 29-year-old man	Intercostal neuralgia	Qimen(Liv14),Yunmen(L2) A shi acupoint.	Chest pain	Chest drain /Recovery
Sheng [25]	1960	A 41-year-old woman	Tuberculosis	Back and inter-scapular area	Shortness of breath	Chest drain /Recovery
Yan et al. [26]	1962	A 24-year-old man	Spinal arthritis	Geshu(B17),Shenzhu(DM12)	Dyspnea	Chest drain /Recovery
		A 47-year-old woman	Epigastric discomfort	Left chest	Dyspnea, sweating, asthma	No mention
Li et al. [27]	1963	3 cases	No mention	No mention	No mention	No mention
		3 cases	2 cases with chronic bronchitis, 1 case with peripheral and neuritis arteriosclerosis	No mention	No mention	No mention
Xu [28]	1963	A 22-year-old girl	Right chest pain and numbness	The right chest and back	Dyspnea, chest pain	Chest drain /Recovery
Peng et al. [29]	1963	A 27-year-old man	Neck pain	Jianjing(G21)	Chest pain, cough, Shortness of breath	Rest and analgesics /Recovery
		A 36-year-old man	Pain on Left shoulder, Numb –ness on left upper limb	Fengmen(B12)	Chest pain, cough, Shortness of breath	Rest and analgesics /Recovery
		A 27-year-old man	Rheumatic arthritis	Jingmen(G25) Dabao(Sp21)	Chest pain	Thoracentesis /Recovery
		A 40-year-old woman	Pain induced by scar	Shencang(K25)	Chest pain, Shortness of breath	Rest /Recovery
Qiao [30]	1964	A 30-year-old man	Prevention of the recurrence of asthma	Feishu(B13)	Cough, dyspnea, shortness of breath	Rest /Recovery
Hai [31]	1964	A 29-year-old woman	Infiltrative pulmonary tuberculosis	Gaohuang(B43) Jianzhongshu(SI15)	Chest pain and shortness of breath	Rest /Recovery
Wang et al. [32]	1965	15 cases	Diseases of Biliary Tract and Joints	Ganshu(B18), Danshu(B19)	Chest pain, Asphyxia(4 cases) Dyspnea(all cases)	Chest drain /Recovery(11 cases) and dead(4 cases)
Wang [33]	1966	5 cases	Asthma(1 case), dysentery(1 case), tuberculosis of thoracic vertebra(1 case), thoracic contusion(1 case), intercostal neuralgia(1case)	1st intercostal, inferior to body of sternum and bilateral angle of scapula(1 case),back of the 8th intercostal(1 case). Back of the 6th intercostal(1 case). supraclavicular fossa(2 cases)	Confused state of mind(1 case). Chest pain, dyspnea, cough(4 cases).	3 cases with thoracentesis vacuum exhaust, 1 case with vacuum suction, 1 case with rest. /Recovery
Ye [34]	1966	A38-year-old man	Intercostal neuralgia	10th intercostal, Thoracic side	Chest pain, sweating, shortness of Breath	Pneumothorax box /recovery
		A 37-year-old man	Chest discomfort	3rd left intercostal, inside of left shoulder blade	Chest pain, sweating, shortness of Breath, syncope	Pneumothorax box /recovery
		A 53-year-old man	Chest pain	9th intercostal, Thoracic side	Chest pain, sweating, shortness of Breath, syncope	Closed drainage /recovery
		A 20-year-old boy	Bronchial asthma	Tiantu(RM22), Qihu(S13)	Cough, subcutaneous emphysema	Surgery /Recovery

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