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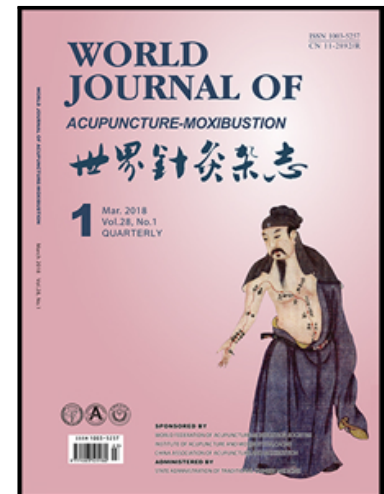
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Review

Study on Timing and Dosage of Acupuncture in Stroke Treatment*

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Abstract: Objective: To summarize the timing-efficacy relationship and the dosage-efficacy relationship of acupuncture in stroke treatment. **Method:** Literature research was conducted for quantitative clinical studies of acupuncture in stroke treatment, with the entry point on the timing factor and dosage factor. A hierarchical analysis was performed on observing the time-efficacy relationship and the dosage-efficacy relationship before, during and after acupuncture. **Results:** Though the retrieved studies differ especially in such timing factors as needle retaining time, acupuncture interval and course, they share an agreement in the acupuncture intervention time point, acupuncture timing, specificity of acupoints and acupuncture manipulation. **Conclusion:** The optimal stimulation is the core of the research on the timing-efficacy relationship and the dosage-efficacy relationship of acupuncture and also the key to the clinical efficacy.

Keywords: Stroke; acupuncture; timing; time; dosage; quantitative study

In China, strokes have already become the first cause of death and disability^[1]. Since the 1970s when Academician SHI Xuemin proposed acupuncture technique for regaining consciousness in stroke treatment, the clinical efficacy of acupuncture in stroke treatment has gained increasing recognition^[2]. In 2011, acupuncture was listed as recommended treatment and care for stroke patients in the *Clinical Practical Guideline of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Acupuncture)* issued by WHO^[3]. To show its efficacy, acupuncture shall turn to the development of acupuncture clinical studies. There have been a number of quantitative studies on acupuncture, especially the number of the clinic studies of acupuncture technique for regaining consciousness is still growing. Quantitative studies, in simple words, are proper manipulation and quantify the acupuncture stimulation according to the patients' conditions, so as to acquire the best curative efficacy^[4]. Throughout the whole treatment process, parameters of quantitative studies can be divided into factors before acupuncture,

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