

## Accepted Manuscript

Title: A randomized controlled trial comparing electroacupuncture with manual acupuncture for motor function recovery after ischemic stroke

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PII: S1876-3820(18)30564-X  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eujim.2018.08.005>  
Reference: EUJIM 830

To appear in:

Received date: 24-4-2017  
Revised date: 14-8-2018  
Accepted date: 15-8-2018

Please cite this article as: Zhen C, Lee Y, Bin H, Jiong W, A randomized controlled trial comparing electroacupuncture with manual acupuncture for motor function recovery after ischemic stroke, *European Journal of Integrative Medicine* (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eujim.2018.08.005>

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## **A randomized controlled trial comparing electroacupuncture with manual acupuncture for motor function recovery after ischemic stroke**

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### **Abstract**

*Introduction:* Acupuncture and electroacupuncture have been used as treatment approaches to improve the motor function of stroke patients. This was a comparative effectiveness study was carried to compare the efficacy of electroacupuncture and acupuncture (needling alone) on motor function recovery in patients who had experienced a cerebral ischemic stroke.

*Method:* Sixty cases were randomised into electroacupuncture group (EAG) and an acupuncture needling alone group (AG). The selected acupoints in both groups were same, while the manipulation of body acupuncture was different. In AG, manual stimulation was applied to the body acupoints, while for EAG, the needles were connected to EA Stimulators. The National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS), Fugl-Meyer Assessment Scale (FMA) and the Barthel Index were used to assess motor function status. CT perfusion imaging and the plasma levels of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) were analyzed and compared.

*Results:* Compared to the AG, significant improvements of NIHSS ( $4.52 \pm 1.38$  versus  $5.71 \pm 1.83$ ,

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