

Observation on 60 Cases of Infantile Cerebral Palsy Treated Mainly by Acupuncture

During the last 2 years, 60 cases of infantile cerebral palsy have been treated by scalp acupuncture, temple three needles, body acupuncture and point injection. The effect was satisfied. Here is the summary.

I. Clinical Data

1. *general data*

Among the 60 cases, there are 35 males and 25 females. Ages are from 1 to 12 years old. 35 cases are congenital cerebral dysgenesis, 5 cases are cerebral birth injury, and 20 cases are due to acquired cerebral diseases. Hemiplegia 10 cases, bilateral leg paralysis 46 cases, four extremity paralysis 4 cases. 40 cases were combined with oligophrenia, 5 cases with disorder in hearing, 8 cases with hydrocephalus.

2. *selection of patients*

- (1) According to history of delivery, cerebral diseases, choose the ones with motor impairment, limbs not moving of themselves, or with low intelligence, speech or hearing disorders.
- (2) All the cases were diagnosed through cerebral CT scanning and/or skull MRI examination, or cerebral topography or EEG. They were proved to have cerebral agenesis or craniocerebral diseases.

II. Treatment Method

1. *Acupuncture*

Selected Points:

Scalp: motor area, foot sense area (choose the opposite side for hemiplegia, choose two sides for bilateral paralysis), three temple needles (left and right, bilateral)

Body: Upper limb: LI15, LI11, SJ5, LI4

Lower limb: ST31, ST34, SP10, Hedong(extra), GB34, GB39, LR3, KI3

(Choose diseased side for hemiplegia and choose two sides points for bilateral leg paralysis or four limbs paralysis.)

Three neck needles: bilateral GB20, DU16 (DU14)

Five lumbar needles: DU3, DU4, DU8, BL23 (bilateral)

Combination of points:

Low Intelligence: four magic needles, three intelligence needles

Speech disorder: speech area II, III, DU15, HT5

Hearing disorder: SJ17, SI19 (GB2)

Manipulation:

Take No30 needles, insert subcutaneously for scalp points, three temple needles, four magic needles and three intelligence needles, speech areas II and III. Puncture perpendicularly 0.5 cun for body points. Apply quick rotating and lifting-thrusting technique. Retain the needles for 30-60 minutes after qi has arrived. Manipulate the needles every 15-30 minutes. Scalp needles and three temple needles are manipulated alternatively. Prick three neck points and five lumbar points after the needles at head, temple and body have been removed. These neck and lumbar needles will not be retained.

30 acupuncture treatments are considered one course. It will take 2 to 4 courses according to the condition of the disease.

2. *Point Injection*

Points: bilateral GB20, bilateral BL23

Medicine: Nao Huo Su (? Cerebral active agents), Astragalus Injection.

Method: routine sterilization to the points, no back-flow of blood, inject 1 ml for each point. Give treatment twice a week. 10 treatments constitute one therapeutic course.

Give 2-4 courses of treatment according to the condition of the disease.

III. Effect Criteria and Treatment Results

1. *Criteria*

Fundamentally cured: Myodynamia of limbs recover above grade 4, symptoms and signs disappear, and patients can stand and walk and be able to take care of themselves. Cranial CT scanning shows the improvement of brain development and the improvement of craniocerebral diseases.

Markedly improved: Myodynamia of paralysed limbs recover to grade 4, the patient can take care of their daily life, symptoms are obviously better, and cranial CT shows some improvement of brain development and improvement of cerebral diseases.

Improved: Myodynamia of paralysed limbs recovered but less than grade 4, the patients can stand but they must take some help to walk, CT shows no change.

No effect: Myodynamia of limbs did not recover, symptoms and signs were not changed after the treatment, CT shows no change.

2. Treatment results

Among the 60 cases, 10 cases were fundamentally cured, 27 cases were markedly improved, 14 cases were improved and 9 cases had no effect. The total effective rate is 85%.

3. The relation between the type of diseases and effect (Table 1)

Type of disease	No	Fundamentally cured	Markedly improved	improved	No effect	Total effective rate (%)
Congenital cerebral Agenesis	35	7	19	6	3	91.4
Acquired cerebral diseases	20	3	6	6	5	75.0
Brain injury due To birth	5		2	2	1	80.0

4. The relation between age and effect (Table 2)

Ages	No	Fundamentally cured	Markedly improved	improved	No effect	Total effective rate (%)
1-3 years old	31	7	18	5	1	96.7
4-6 years old	18	3	8	3	4	77.8
7-9 years old	7		1	4	2	71.0
10-12 years old	4			2	2	50.0

IV. Typical Case (Omit)

V. Discussion

1. Scalp acupuncture can improve blood circulation in the brain, improve the development of the brain. Three temple points, four magic points, three intelligence points have good effects for paralysis of limbs and improving intelligence. The location of infantile cerebral palsy is the brain, therefore, scalp acupuncture and three temple points are the key points for this disease.
2. Three neck points, five lumbar points are related internally with the cerebellum, brain stem and the spinal cord. These points are used to assist the head and temple points to connect the upper with the lower, to clear and move the qi and blood in the meridians, to nourish the tendons and vessels, to strengthen the spine and brain, and to strengthen the muscles and bones. All the points used together have a certain effect of exciting the transmission from the brain stem to the spine and helping the recovery of the equilibrium function of the cerebellum.
3. According to the clinical observation, this method is suitable for all type of infantile cerebral palsy with an effective rate of 85%. It can get best effect for cases under 3 years old. Thus, early diagnosis and treatment is very important.