A Study on Human Immune Activity of the Arthritis and Multi-Neuritis through Different Moxibustion Methods.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The human body has a defense system which can recognize and eliminate foreign bodies when it is invaded by such bodies.

The human red blood cells have an antigen-recognizing ability which distinguishes their own cell type from others. Therefore, human blood is assigned to blood groups A, B, AB, or O, depending on whether the red cells carry the A antigen, the B antigen, both, or neither of these antigens. Human beings of blood group B will respond to an injection of A red cells by producing anti-A antibodies. They do not produce anti-B antibodies because the B antigen is not foreign to them. The white blood cells, leukocytes also have the ability to recognize and reject a foreign organ when it is transplanted from one individual to a different individual.

This human leukocyte antigen is commonly abbreviated HLA, and is another way in which the parts of the human body distinguish “self” from “non-self”.

Since microbes have existed on earth for several billion years longer than human being and animals have, both human beings and animals need a good defense system in order to survive.

The animal body possesses leukocytes and macrophages for the phagocytosis of foreign invaders, and lymphocytes, γ-glubulin, and a complementary system for inactivating invaders. Human leukocytes, macrophages, lymphocytes, and complementary systems can also recognize and eliminate foreign invaders, transformed cells, cell debris and cancer cells. The defense system is called the immune

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system. When this immune system is functioning normally, we should not feel any symptom in our bodies. However, when the immunological activity is decreased or too many antigens are overpowering the defense system, then we will feel such symptoms as fever, pain, swelling, or itching until a normal condition is recovered.

The lists presented below have been taken from a scientific review paper. The effects listed have been noted to occur in the immune system as the result of acupuncture and moxibustion. The list contains the effects noted in human. When reading about the effects of acupuncture and moxibustion on the immune system, we should realize that some meridian points have a stimulating effect on the immune system and other meridian points have a depressing effect on the immune system; Mitogen response increases, NK activity increases (NK=Natual Killer cell), T-cell ratio increases, serum growth hormone increases, β-cells increase, Leukemin is cured, Leulocytes, increase Phagocyte activity increase, Cancer decreases, IgE decreases, Lymphocytes normalize.

In order to observe the effect of moxibustion on the immune activity in the human body, the methods of direct or indirect moxibustion were adopted in the treatment of the patients with Arthritis and Multi-Neuritis, and the immune activities of cell (LTT, E-RFC · ³²H-TdR) and immune activity of liguid (IgG, IgA, IgM, C₃) were also observed.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

(1) 65 cases with Arthritis were selected. According to the differentiation of symptoms and signs in Oriental traditional medicine, the patients were Yang-deficient. They were treated with direct moxibustion, all of cases were treated in the summer time.

The acupuncture points chosen were GV-14(대추), LI-15(건우), LI-11(곡지), LI-4(합곡), GB-31 (풍시), SP-36(축산리), SP-6(상음교), GB-39(현종, GV-12(신주), GV-3(요양관), BL-23(신수), CV-6(기해).

Upon those points select 3-5 points each session as scar-producing method were applied once every otherday with 3 times as a course of the treatment. After direct moxibustion, we covered the burned points with traditional plasters to form purulent moxibustion sorce. We changed the plasters every day until the sores healed.

The determination of immune activity: The liguid activity of the 65 cases, including IgG(normal