

Scalp Acupuncture Restores Function After Stroke

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Scalp acupuncture enhances neurologic repair and reduces cerebral edema due to an intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH), a type of stroke. Researchers conducted a laboratory experiment on laboratory rats and discovered that acupuncture improves neurologic functions following an ICH. Additionally, a biochemical analysis reveals that acupuncture regulates expression of MMP-9 (matrix metalloproteinase), an enzyme that breaks down

extracellular matrix and is involved in tissue remodeling.

Functional improvements included significant enhancements of limb bending, ability to stand, performance of voluntary movements, and a reduction of paralysis. The procedure used to achieve the clinical results was the application of the threading needle technique combined with scalp acupuncture. Acupuncture point Baihui (GV20) was connected to Xuanli (GB6) using the threading technique. The procedure was tested against a control group and demonstrated significant clinical efficacy in cerebral edema reduction, functional improvements, and regulation of MMP-9.

Acupuncture enhanced resorption of blood stasis due to internal bleeding. Combined with acupuncture's ability to regulate of MMP-9, the researchers suggest that these objective results contributed to the enhanced neurologic functional recovery and reduction of internal bleeding. The researchers gave a brief summary for the basis of the investigation citing prior research.

Wang Qiang et al. concluded that brain internal bleeding leads to toxic reactions and therefore cerebral edema. Hence, controlling toxic reactions and cerebral edema is a key factor in the treatment of brain internal bleeding. Yin Nina et al. concluded that pain reduction on patients has a direct impact on the reduction of cerebral edema and controlling MMP-9 expression. Huang Wei has also concluded that cerebral edema can be ameliorated through controlling MMP-9 expression. Prior research demonstrates that acupuncture regulates MMP-9 expression in a homeostatic manner, both in cases of upregulation and downregulation as required by differing medical disorders.

