Pharmaco-acupuncture in Medical Practice

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Abstract: The practice of the Pharmacoacupuncture comprising two major basic philosophies of oriental medicine, herb medicine and meridian theories, is being performed using the injecting devices based on the basic pharmacologic principles of modern western medicine. So the Pharmacoacupuncture can be called a harmonization of oriental and modern western medicine, and a stepping stone for Future Integrated Medicine. The Pharmacoacupuncture attempts to cure a disease or help correct physical constitution by adopting ‘triple heater regulation’ method. The value of the Pharmacoacupuncture as a means of conquering chronic degenerative diseases is to be discussed through case analysis.

Keywords: meridian, herb medicine, pharmaco-acupuncture, triple heater

1. Introduction

The Pharmacoacupuncture combines the two major oriental therapeutics of acupuncture and herb medicine and is a healing art developed in and unique to korea. The Pharmacoacupuncture attempt to treat a disease or help improve physical constitution by injecting proper herbal extracts to the specific Meridian points corresponding to the internal visceral organs.

Before the trial of treatment a patient is evaluated under the “Eight Principles(八纲) which are the classical diagnostic methods of traditional Oriental Medicine.

Nam Sang-Chon first developed the concept of Pharmacoacupuncture in 1967 and reported many remarkable clinical experiences, but Nam’s Pharmacoacupuncture could not be widely distributed due to the side effects caused by the crude injecting materials made from the insufficient filtration of the medicinal herbs.

Since 1980 Kim Jurng-Urn introduced the Pharmacoacupuncture based on the “Eight Principles”, which uses essentially safe injecting materials made from the mixture of several medicinal herbs. Kim also reported many extraordinary clinical trials including cancer.

The Author has been practicing Kim’s Pharmacoacupuncture since 1985, accumulated and experienced many successful trials of various kinds of intractable diseases among several about 11,000 patients.

The possibility of the Pharmacoacupuncture as a potential tool of overcoming various intractable medical conditions would like to be discussed through case studies from the Autor’s clinical records.

2. Materials & Methods

The herb extracts used for the therapy are essentially safe injecting materials. They are made from the mixture of several medicinal herbs via distillation techniques, and finally sterilized in an autoclave before use.

The points for injection are mainly located on the anterior and posterior surface of the trunk, namely associated points(俞穴) alarm points(募穴), and determined according to specific anatomic location of each internal organ.

The extracted solutions used in this study are L1 solution made from the mixture of Adenophorae radix(沙蔘), Liriopis tuber(萊茵冬), Asparagi radix(天門冬), Lilii bulbus(百合), Fritillariae bulbis(貝母).

H solution made from Coptidis rhizome(黃連), Scutellariae radix(黃芩), Phellodendron amurense(黃柏), and Gardeniae fructus(梔子)

W solution from Gardeniae fructus(梔子), Corydalis turtschaninovii(延胡索), Olibanum(乳香), Commiphora myrrha(沒藥), Angelicae gigantis radix(當歸), Persicae seme(桃仁), Salviae radix(丹蔘), Paonieae radix rubra(赤芍).
3. Case Review

Case 1. Allergic Dermatitis

This 43 year old woman developed severe rash around both knees on which aerosol had been sprayed. After 3 times of injection with H solution the rash was almost disappeared.

Fig 1. rash around knee of case 1

Fig 2. disappeared rash after treatment

Case 2. Atopic dermatitis

This 25 year old female patient has been suffering from atopic dermatitis for 5 years. L1 solution was injected on both BL13(肺) and H solution on affected skin 15 times.

Fig 3. atopic skin rash on plantar surface of left foot of case 2

Fig 4. alleviated rash of case 2

Fig 5. Psoriatic rash of case 3
Case 4. Avascular necrosis of right femur neck

This 45 year old male complains of pain in right lateral side of hip and limping gate, which have been proven to be an outcome of avascular necrosis of femur neck with MRI. W solution was selected and injected to the tender points on right hip.

Case 5. L4-5 disc herniation

This 20 year old male complains of low back pain with radiation to right lower extremity. Combination of W and H solutions was injected on low back and points of Bladder Meridian scattered on right posterior leg.

4. Discussion

There are so many therapeutic measures for various kinds of chronic intractable diseases whether they may be orthodox or complementary or alternative.

The Pharmacoacupuncture combining the two major oriental therapeutics of acupunctural remedy and herb medicine is being operated according to the philosophy of oriental medicine, but the practice of Pharmacoacupuncture is being performed using the devices of modern western medicine. In this sense the Pharmacoacupuncture itself is the harmonization of eastern and western medicine and can be a stepping stone for Future Integrated Medicine.

The Pharmacoacupuncture adopts the techniques of what is known as “triple heater regulation (三焦調節法)” which attempts to cure a disease or help improve physical constitution by injecting proper herba extracts to the specific meridian points following the diagnostic conclusions from “Eight Principles” which are commonly applied during the diagnostic process of oriental medicine.

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