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Chronic Pancreatitis and Depression: A Real-World Big Data Analysis

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Abstract

Purpose: Chronic pancreatitis is a severe disease which is frequently attributed to alcohol abuse. Patients with chronic pancreatitis suffer from recurrent episodes and have poor quality of life. The relationship between chronic pancreatitis and depression has not been well-established; therefore, we aim to investigate this novel association.

Methods: We conducted a retrospective cohort study by using data from the National Health Insurance Research Database in Taiwan. We established a chronic pancreatitis cohort comprising 1,040 newly diagnosed adult patients during 2000 – 2012 and a comparison cohort comprising 4,160 individuals who were matched by the propensity score with age, sex, date of chronic pancreatitis diagnosis, and comorbidities of depression. Incident depression was monitored toward the end of 2013. Relative risks of depression were estimated using the Cox proportional hazards model.

Results: The results revealed the overall incidence of depression was higher in the case cohort than in the comparison cohort (15.8 versus 5.76 per 1,000 person-years) with an adjusted hazard ratio, 2.65 (95% confidence interval = 2.06–3.42). In addition, patients with chronic pancreatitis with more annual emergency room visits (≥ 2 times per year) were associated with an elevated risk for developing depression compared to those with less annual emergency room visits (adjusted hazard ratio = 2.67, 95% confidence interval = 1.77–4.02).

Conclusion: Patients with chronic pancreatitis are at an elevated risk for developing depression, and the risk increases for those with more emergency medical demands. Clinicians should pay more attention to this group of patients and give them appropriate support.

Keywords: chronic pancreatitis; depression; cohort study; big data analysis.

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The Role of Autophagy and Its Related Signaling Sub-pathways in Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

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Abstract

Lung cancer is one of the most prevalent disease causes of morbidity and mortality around the world, which is a big threat to human health. The common disease has a silence phenotype at origin, which leads to an irreversibly chronic carcinogenesis. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common subtype of lung cancer, accounting for about 85 percent of all lung malignancies. At the same time, autophagy has been described as an intracellular "recycle bin" where abnormal and damaged proteins and/or other molecules are degraded. Autophagy-related regulation is much dependent on several famous signaling sub-pathways such as phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3K), Ak strain transforming (AKT), and the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR)-related sub-pathways. As far as NSCLC in concerned, studies on these famous sub-pathways are inconsistent and unconcluded, and we aimed for summarizing these literature indicating that the inhibition of mTOR, PI3K/AKT, and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) related signaling sub-pathways by various medications which can active autophagy and inhibit NSCLC progression. Among the various medications, the traditional Chinese medicine are highly expected and very promising. In conclusion, controlling the closely sub-pathways related to autophagy can serve as effective therapeutic strategy for the treatment of NSCLC in the near future.

Keywords: Ak strain transforming (AKT), autophagy, mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR), non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), phosphoinositide 3-kinases (PI3K).

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A Case Report and Discussion on the Effective Treatment of Stroke Complicated with Conscious Disturbance by a Western Medical Doctor Using Acupuncture

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Abstract

Based on empirical evidence, it is found that acupuncture can effectively treat patients with post-traumatic coma. Using the principles of awakening the brain, we choose acupuncture on the three commonly used acupoints of Zusanli, Hegu and Baihui on both sides to actually treat a stroke patient. This patient was found to have quadriplegia combined with drowsiness and other signs of brainstem strokes. After three days of Western medicine treatment, the condition did not improve. Acupuncture on both sides of Zusanli, Hegu and Baihui improved the patient's consciousness. After 14 days of hospitalization, the patient could walk with a cane and be discharged from the hospital. This confirms that acupoint stimulation can effectively help patients regain consciousness and produce good prognosis.

Acupoint stimulation is a kind of somatosensory, which is transmitted from the limbs or head to the thalamus, and the signal of the thalamus is immediately connected to the innermost limb (limbic system) of the brain, which is also called the visceral brain. The 12 meridians we are talking about are the meridians of the internal organs. It is speculated that Deqi should also activate these areas (thalamus and limbic system) to improve our internal organs and meridians. The brain produces a feeling of increased activity of internal organs, the brain wakes up, and the output signal controls and guides the internal organs. For a comatose patient, as long as the nerve path of the input terminal before the thalamus is not completely blocked, acupoint stimulation can be used to awaken patients.

This paper infers that acupoint massage can also wake up the brain. In another patient who suffered from brain stem stroke and was in a coma, only using acupoint massage can restore consciousness and have a good prognosis. Therefore, acupoint stimulation can indeed be provided to the general public to learn, and it can be practically applied while stroke attack.

Keywords: conscious disturbance, stroke, neuroscience of acupuncture, acupoint massage.

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Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine Inpatient Treatment Model for Stroke Post-acute Care: A Case Report

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Abstract

The present case is a 58-year-old woman with a history of acute hemorrhagic stroke on June 21, 2021. The initial manifestation included left limbs weakness, dysphagia, and aphasia. The muscle power was grade 0 on left limb. She received craniotomy on June 21, 2021 and started to receive integrated Chinese and Western medicine treatment for post stroke care on July 1, 2021. She was transferred to rehabilitation ward for a 4-week rehabilitation program since July 15, 2021. After discharged from rehabilitation ward, she was alternatively admitted to the Chinese medicine ward and rehabilitation ward for a period of 6 months. The final outcomes showed the muscle power of proximal left upper limb improved to grade 3, distal left upper limb improved to grade 2 and left lower leg improved to grade 4. The modified rankin scale (mRS) was improved from mRS 5 to 2. The clinical manifestations were significantly improved under the integrated Chinese and Western medicine treatment model for stroke post-acute care.

Keywords: stroke, post-acute care, integrated medicine, traditional Chinese medicine

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目錄

原著論文 Original Article

- 慢性胰臟炎與憂鬱症：一個真實世界大數據分析
賴聰朗、林橙莉、劉哲育、沈德群* 1
Chronic Pancreatitis and Depression: A Real-World Big Data Analysis
*Tsung-Lang Lai, Cheng-Li Lin, Jer-Yuh Liu, Te-Chun Shen** 13
- 自噬作用在非小細胞肺癌所扮演的角色及其訊遞途徑
夏德椿、黃岱琳、秦宇廷、黃錫禎、蕭瑤辰、王韻琪、張文馨、包大羸*、
蔡佳紋* 14
The Role of Autophagy and Its Related Signaling Sub-pathways in Non-small
Cell Lung Cancer
*Te-Chun Hsia, Tai-Lin Huang, Yu-Ying Chin, Si-Zein Huang, Yu-Chen Hsiau,
Yun-Chi Wang, Wen-Shin Chang, Da-Tian Bau*, Chia-Wen Tsai** 30

病例報告 Case Report

- 西醫藉由針灸有效治療腦中風合併意識障礙之病例報告及原理探討
黃維邦 31
A Case Report and Discussion on the Effective Treatment of Stroke Complicated
with Conscious Disturbance by a Western Medical Doctor Using Acupuncture.
Wei-Pang Huang 45
- Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine Inpatient Treatment Model for Stroke
Post-acute Care: A Case Report
*Chun-Ting Liu, Yan-Yuh Lee, Ming-Yen Tsai** 46
- 腦中風急性後期中西醫整合住院照護模式之案例報告
劉俊廷、李炎論、蔡明諺* 57

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9 771607 292808