

OPEN PEER REVIEW REPORT 1

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Title: The Effects of Electroacupuncture on Pain Sensation in a Rat Model of Hyperalgesia with Nicotine Dependence

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COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

It is an interesting approach to the possible therapeutic events of electroacupuncture in a model of nicotine-induced hyperalgesia.

It is a work in which three experimental groups are used, a control group, a nicotine group and a group with nicotine + electroacupuncture.

A continuous evaluation is carried out in the animals with the von Frey filaments test, and an analysis of various analytes in the tissue homogenate using the WB technique.

Methodologically, the work appears to be fine, but more evidence is lacking, either by IHC and correlation with WB.

Besides others:

- Analysis such as the analysis of fine fiber in the extremities of animals.
- Analysis of cytokines as they are closely involved in the development of pain.
- Histology of the electroacupuncture stimulation site, as well as IHC analysis of fine fiber, neurofilaments, mast cell infiltration, inflammation and apoptosis markers.

In the western world, acupuncture is gaining more momentum and therapeutic applications, reinforcing with evidence in patients the mechanisms of action (MRI / PET) evoked potentials / EMG, analysis of noradrenergic molecules and NMDA receptors.

In the proposed model, a group that is only intact control + acupuncture would be missing, it would be very useful to verify the results obtained.

It would also be necessary to carry out imaging techniques that ratify the data obtained (NMR / EMG), just as they are doing with humans.

If this could be done, it would be a study that would present and justify the data of an experimental model of the therapeutic effect of electroacupuncture.