

## **Systematic reviews of Japanese acupuncture for respiratory disease**

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**Context:** Only a few reports of acupuncture and moxibustion therapy for respiratory disease exist and these are in Japanese. It is difficult for overseas researchers to access these because they cannot be retrieved with Medline.

**Objective:** To introduce reports of the use of acupuncture and moxibustion therapy in Japan for respiratory disease.

**Data Sources:** Literature search using 'Igakyo Chuo Zasshi' (Japan Central Review of Medicine) and Medical Online Library covering the period from 1983 to 2006.

**Study Selection:** Original articles and case reports regarding respiratory disease, suspected to have been treated with acupuncture and moxibustion treatment, were included. Animal studies, surveys, excerpt and news articles were excluded. The retrieved articles used the terms acupuncture and respiratory disease (respiratory or asthma or COPD or bronchitis or common cold).

**Results:** We located 35 papers written in Japanese (8 full papers, 27 cases reports). Conditions examined were asthma (18 trials), chronic bronchitis (1 trials), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (7 trials), and common cold (10 trials). Reports regarding asthma and common cold were the most frequent. The effect of acupuncture treatment on respiratory disease was introduced by 27 theses.

**Conclusion:** Several reports of acupuncture and moxibustion treatment for respiratory disease are listed in Japanese databases. The availability of acupuncture treatment for respiratory disease is low. Acupuncture treatment is, however, performed for tenacious respiratory disease in COPD. Acupuncture treatment is thought to be an effective therapy for respiratory disease; however, there is currently no evidence regarding the benefits of such treatment for respiratory disease. Therefore a clinical trial with a research design such as RCT would be useful.

**Key words:** respiratory disease, acupuncture and moxibustion