Analysis of Recent Trends in Clinical Research Publications on Acupuncture and Moxibustion Studies

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Objective: This study was aimed to review the trend of clinical research articles of acupuncture and moxibustion from the year of 1995 to 2006.

Methods: The retrieving and analyzing period were from January 1995 to July 2006. Articles were collected by retrieving Pubmed database. Search terms were as follows: "Acupuncture", "Acupuncture & Meridian", "Moxibustion". After reviewing articles by our pre-defined criteria, correlation was assessed qualitatively between contents of the final selected articles and those of Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine.

Results: The number of acupuncture research articles have increased with higher rate since the year of 2000. In the field of medical devices, the articles were sparsely existed. The percentage of clinical acupuncture research articles was 75%. However, in the category of Korean investigators' researches, it was 46%. Publications by Korean investigators were concentrated to several specific journals of which their impact factor were below 1 point.

Conclusion: There needs more qualifying studies in acupuncture studies which are represented by impact factor in Journal Citation Reports. It is necessary to research and develop the medical devices quantitatively rating the outcome of acupuncture trials. The secondary research, such as, systematic reviews, meta-analysis, would be a key approach to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of acupuncture treatments. Moxibustion research would be noticeable in regard to its historical effectiveness and its variable indications.

Key words: acupuncture, journal, acupuncture trend

I. 서 론

최근 국내·외에서 근거중심의학(EBM, Evidence Based Medicine)에 대한 관심이 부각 증가하고 있다. 이 같은 관심을 반영하듯 최근 한의계에도 몇 년 사이에 점에 대한 과학적 접근을 위한 임상연구가 활발히 이루어지고 있다. 10여 년 전만 해도 한 해에 게재되는 임상 관련 논문이 100여 건에 지나지 않던 것이 2005년도에는 450여 건에 달한 정도로 성장한 시간에 첨단 연구에 대한 양적 증가에 대해 있었다. 그러나 연구결과를 살펴보면 이러한 양적 성장을 보이고 있음에도 불구하고 질적 성

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