Korean acupuncture: the individualized and practical acupuncture

ChangShik Yin, Hi-Joon Park, Younbyoung Chae, Eunyoung Ha, Hun-Kuk Park, Hyang-Sook Lee, HyeongGyun Koh, SungKeel Kang, SunMi Choi, YeonHee Ryu and Hyejung Lee

* Department of Acupuncture, CHA Biomedical Center, College of Medicine, Pochon CHA University, Seoul 135-081, Korea
TKM Research Group, Kyung Hee University, Seoul 130-701, Korea

Department of Oriental Medicine, Sangji University, Wonju 220-702, Korea

1 Department of Acupuncture, Kyung Hee Medical Center, Seoul 130-702, Korea

Department of Medical Research, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine, Daejeon 305-811, Korea

Backgrounds: Acupuncture has long been a central part of medicine in East Asia. Recently its therapeutic effects are world-wide recognized with scientific bases being established by means of basic research and clinical studies in the biomedical sciences. Even though Korean acupuncture (KA) shares its origins with traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), it has developed into its own unique system.

Methods: We assessed the unique characteristics of KA and discussed the potential contributions of KA to modern medicine.

Results: Individualized approach by KA is based on constitutional energy traits which are considered as a main element in Saam, Taegeuk and eight constitution acupunctures. New practical and integrated forms of therapeutic modalities, such as herbal acupuncture or pharmacopuncture, have also been developed by KA.

Conclusion: Given its individualized and practical characteristics, KA is expected to make significant contributions to the understanding and the treatment of neurological disorders through basic research and clinical trials. [Neurol Res 2007; 29: S10-S15]

Keywords: Acupuncture; Korean acupuncture; Saam acupuncture; Taegeuk acupuncture; eight constitution acupuncture; herbal acupuncture; pharmacopuncture

Neurological Research, 2007, Volume 29, Supplement 1