Accident in acupuncture treatment

Instructor: Yuxia Qiu
Pain or trauma on or after insertion

- pain as the needle pierces the skin
  - careful and considerate insertion.
- the needle striking an artery wall, periosteum, tendon, or nerve.
  - Lift the needle until it is just beneath the skin, changing the direction, and insert it again.
- the needle is rotating in a wide arc and entwined with fibrous tissue.
  - Gently rotating the needle back and forth until the fiber is released.
Fainting

• Symptoms:
  – Dizziness and vertigo, cold sweating, pallor, oppressive feeling in the chest, palpitation, nausea
  – Severe case: cold extremities, weak pulse, loss of consciousness, hypotension, and shock

• Management:
  – Remove the needles immediately
  – Allow the patient to lie flat with the feet or legs slightly elevated to recover on his or her own.
  – Offer the patient warm drinks
  – Acupuncture treatment:
    • Press or puncture GV26, PC6, LI4, ST36
  – Call for emergency medical assistance
• **Cause:**
  – Nervous tension
  – Hunger, fatigue, extreme weakness of the patient
  – Overly forceful manipulation

• **Prevention:**
  – Treat patients lying down if they are weak, tired, fasting, or in a nervous state
  – Gentle needle manipulation for those patients
  – Observe the patient closely
Stuck needle

- **Manifestation:**
  - After the needle is inserted, it may be difficult or impossible to rotate, lift and thrust, or withdraw.

- **Cause:**
  - Spasm of the muscle
  - Overly wide amplitude of rotation of the needle

- **Management:**
  - Relax the patient
  - Massage or tap the skin around the point
  - Give another puncture nearby
  - Turn the needle in opposite direction if the needle is entangled in fibrous tissue
Broken needle

• **Cause:**
  – Poor needle quality
  – The patient changed position
  – Strong spasm of the muscle
  – Excessive force is used in manipulation

• **Management:**
  – Patients do not move
  – Remove the needle with forceps if the broken part is exposed
  – Seek medical help immediately if the needle is completely under the skin.

• **Do not cut the flesh to get access to the needle.**
• **It is strongly recommended that a needle never be inserted up to the handle.**
Injury to lungs—pneumothorax

• Cause:
  – The needle is thrust too deeply or in an incorrect direction into the points of the chest, back or supraclavicular fossa

• Symptoms:
  – Pain in the chest and cough
  – Severe case: dyspnea, pallor, cyanosis, coma, fatality, etc.

• Management:
  – Carefully withdraw the needle immediately
  – Encourage the patient to lie calmly.
  – The patient should be taken to the hospital; if the symptoms are severe, call for emergency help.
Injury to liver, spleen and kidney

• Liver & spleen:
  – Abdominal pain,
  – rigidity of the abdominal muscles,
  – and/or rebound pain upon pressure.

• Kidney:
  – Pain in the lumbar region,
  – tenderness and pain upon percussion,
  – bloody urine,
  – even coma

• Management:
  – The patient should be taken to the hospital or emergency medical help should be called.
Injury to brain and spinal cord

• Cause:
  – Too deep insertion or inappropriate manipulation on points close to the brain and spinal cord

• Symptoms:
  – Convulsions
  – Paralysis
  – Coma

• Management:
  – Emergency medical help should be called immediately