

# Accident in acupuncture treatment

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# 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

## Continued

- 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