

COVID-19 Sequel Epilepsy: A Case Study

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First Session

October 22nd, 2021. A 10-year-old boy patient, date of birth: February 28th, 2011. In early 2021, the patient and his parents were infected by Covid-19. His parents recovered without sequela. But the boy started to have epilepsy after covid infection, 2 to 3 seizures per week. The boy has no family history of epilepsy. In April 2021, he started taking antiepileptic drugs, Sodium Valproate 500mg and Carbamazepine 2.5ml. After taking these drugs for 6 months, there was no change in his condition. The doctor recommended increasing the dose of medicine or changing it to other drugs and informed the boy's parents that the child's epilepsy may not be cured and requires long-term drugs control. Therefore, the patient's parents hoped to try acupuncture treatment.

Symptoms

poor memory, irritability, insomnia, easy to wake up, large appetite, prefer to drink cold water, cold extremities, energy level 8/10. Tongue examination: central crack in the middle of the tongue. Pulse diagnosis: the left Guan pulse and the left Chi pulse are weak.

TCM pattern differentiation: Liver and Kidneys deficiency. Acupuncture treatment: Small tonify Liver acu-method on the left-hand side LR 1, LR 8, right-hand side LU 9, SP 1. Coordinate with points on Du Mai, including GV20, EX-HN 3, CV-12, CV6, and left mental and emotional zone (Jiao's scalp acupuncture).

Second Session

October 29th, 2021. The boy had 3 seizures this week. His sleep improved significantly. Tongue examination: the crack in the middle of the tongue became less noticeable.

Pulse diagnosis: The left Chi pulse is weak. TCM pattern differentiation: Kidney essence deficiency.

Acupuncture Treatment:

Small tonify Kidney acu-method on the left-hand side PC3, SP 2, right-hand side KD 10, KD 7. Coordinate with points on Du Mai, including GV20, GV17, GV14, and left mental and emo-

tional zone (Jiao's scalp acupuncture).

Third Session

November 5th, 2021. There were no seizures this week. Pulse diagnosis: The left Chi pulse is weak. TCM pattern differentiation: Kidney essence deficiency. The acupuncture treatment is the same as in the second session.

Fourth Session

November 12th, 2021. There were no seizures this week. Pulse diagnosis: The left Chi pulse is weak. TCM pattern differentiation: Kidney essence deficiency. Acupuncture treatment is the same as the second session.

Fifth Session

November 24th, 2021. There were no seizures this week. The patient had a cold. Pulse diagnosis: Right Cun pulse is excess. TCM pattern differentiation: Lung Guardian Qi Syndrome. Acupuncture treatment: Small reduce Lung acu-method on the left-hand side PC 5, PC 7, right-hand side LU 5. Coordinate with points on Du Mai, including GV20, GV17, GV14, and left mental and emotional zone (Jiao's scalp acupuncture).

Sixth Session

December 11th, 2021. There were no seizures this week. Pulse diagnosis: the left Guan pulse is weak. TCM pattern differentiation: Liver deficiency. Acupuncture treatment: Small tonify Liver acu-method on the left-hand side LR 1, LR 8, right-hand side LU 9, SP 1. Coordinate with points on Du Mai, including GV20, GV17, GV14, and left mental and emotional zone (Jiao's scalp acupuncture).

Seventh Session

January 6th, 2022. There were no seizures this week. Pulse diagnosis: The left Chi pulse is weak. TCM syndrome diagnose: deficiency of kidney essence. Acupuncture treatment is the same as in the second session. I told the patient's mother that her son can stop acupuncture treatment now.

Discussion

Some patients who have been infected with COVID have ongoing symptoms after infection. Seizure can be a manifestation of the "Long-COVID" syndrome [1]. The 10-year-old child has no family history of epilepsy and his onset should be related to brain dysfunction after being infected with the new coronavirus.

Small tonify Liver acu-method and Small tonify kidney acu-method, both are part of the "Fu Xing Jue" Zang Fu replenishing and reducing acupuncture method. All acupuncture points are the Five Shu points. The key to using this acupuncture method lies in judging the deficiency or excess of the viscera and meridian function through pulse diagnosis. The tonify method is adopted for the deficiency, and the reduce method is adopted for the excess. According to the pulse diagnosis, the child mainly has Liver and Kidneys deficiency. Small tonify Liver acu-method and Small tonify Kidney acu-method are used accordingly.

"The brain is the home of the Shen". Among the eight Extra channels, the most closely related to brain function is the Governor Meridian. Therefore, the acupoints are mainly on Du Channel's, including GV20, GV17, GV14 and mental and emotional zone (Jiao's scalp acupuncture).

In this case, the antiepileptic drugs were not effective for 6 months. After the second treatment, the child did not have epilepsy anymore. Acupuncture significantly reduced the number of seizures in this case.

References

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