OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF ACUPUNCTURE EFFECTS BY MICROCIRCULATION-RELATED PARAMETERS IN PATIENTS WITH PROXIMAL FEMUR FRACTURE

- ABSTRACT –

Fractures of the proximal femur is a common and important cause of functional impairment, immobilization and a general increase of morbidity in elderly patients. Postoperative recovery is often complicated by multiple injuries, high rates of avascular necrosis of the femoral head due to disrupted blood supply and nonunion.

In Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) acupuncture is used to reduce he aforementioned complications and complains. In fact, acupuncture may lead to an increase in muscular strength with a measureable gait improvement within this scenario[4]. According to TCM theory, they are related to the diagnosis of algor/"cold" which, according to the Heidelberg (HD) Model of TCM, may be regarded as a lack of microcirculation (MC).

Acupoints are selected according to the functional diagnosis of TCM which is regarded as a vegetative functional status. Unfortunately, one western diagnosis may represent a variety of TCM diagnoses resulting in a variety of treatment concepts (a major problem for the standardization of acupuncture research). As the TCM diagnosis is regarded as a vegetative functional status, parameterization of the vegetative pre-treatment status may lead to better standardization of patients by the respective inclusion criteria.

This aim of this study was:

1. To demonstrate if it is possible to objectively assess the effects of acupuncture by MC-related parameters in the given clinical scenario.

2. To evaluate the role of baseline pre-treatment MC-related parameters as an inclusion criterion for the comparability and the statistical significance in future acupuncture studies.

3. Whether MC-related parameters may one day play a role in parameterizing the TCM diagnosis as a vegetative functional state.

Ana Alexandra Anjos

Senior lecture at Fatima College of Health Sciences, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Master in Traditional Chinese Medicine by Porto University, Porto, Portugal

Master in Physiotherapy by University of Cape Town