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Wrist-ankle acupuncture prevents complications after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization for patient with hepatocellular carcinoma

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To evaluate the clinical efficacy of wrist-ankle acupuncture (WAA) on preventing complications after transcatheter arterial chemoembolization (TACE) in patients of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC), we conducted this randomized controlled trial. Fifty-two cases of patients with HCC who will perform TACE were randomly divided into two groups before surgery, the WAA prevention group and control group, 26 cases in each one. Recordings were taken for the elevated transaminases, pain, fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal distension and liver dysfunction jaundice incidence of each group post-operative. The incidence of pain, nausea and vomiting of patients in WAA prevention group were lower the control group postoperative ($P < 0.05$); while there was no statistically significant difference between the WAA prevention group and the control group in the incidence of elevated aminotransferases, fever, abdominal distension, liver dysfunction jaundice postoperative ($P > 0.05$). The degree of pain after TACE in the WAA prevention group was lower than the patients in the control group, the difference was statistically significant ($P < 0.05$). In conclusion, the use of WAA before TACE in patients with primary liver cancer can reduce the occurrence of postoperative pain, nausea and vomiting, and it can also reduce the degree of pain postoperative.

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