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Acupuncture therapy in hemifacial microsomia patients with dysphagia: A case study

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Objective: Hemifacial microsomia (HFM) is often associated with dysphagia. This case study illustrates the potential application of acupuncture in a HFM patient with dysphagia.

Clinical Features: A one-year-old boy with a history of prematurity, had multiple congenital anomalies, including Immature retina, swallowing and suction disorder, left HFM, limited mouth opening, hearing loss, bilateral external auditory canal atresia, hypospadias, ambiguous genitalia, scoliosis of T-L spine, hemivertebra at T12. There was no chromosomal abnormality or other specific genetic disorder detected by chorionic villus sampling. His severe growth and developmental retardation were also noted.

Intervention & Outcome: The patient was fed via nasogastric tube because of dysphagia at his first visit. Acupuncture with maneuver of half-needling was performed at GV26 and the twelve Well points twice a week. He was able to eat and drink after 15 therapeutic sessions. His hearing impairment was also improved from 90 to 60 db.

Conclusion: Acupuncture at GV26 and the twelve well points was found to exert therapeutic effect on dysphagia and hearing impairment in patients with HFM.



Figure 1: A 1-year-old boy with hemifacial microsomia before (right) and after 15 acupuncture treatments (left).

Biography

Shih-Ting Tseng is Medical Resident in Department of Chinese Medicine at Kaohsiung Chang Gung Memorial Hospital. She graduated from school of Chinese Medicine at Chang Gung University and majored both Western and Chinese medicine. She is interested in acupuncture and Chinese traumatology. She has her own idea in research and development of Chinese herbal products. There are some preparations of Chinese herbal products for external use designed by her.

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