



Acupuncture effect on digestion in critically ill postoperative oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients  
A protocol for double-blind randomized control trial

**Eyal Ben-Arie,**  
**MSa, Pei-Yu Kao, MDb,c, Wen-Chao Ho, PhDd,g, Yu Chen Lee, PhDa**

Head and neck cancer patients are at a high risk to suffer from malnourishment, a risk that increases in postoperative condition and with the use of enteral nutrition (EN). Until now patients who are suffering from indigestion in the intensive care unit (ICU) received treatment in the form of prokinetic drugs, drugs that can only partially improve digestion functions. The study aims are to investigate acupuncture effect in combination with prokinetic drugs in the treatment of indigestion in postoperative oral and hypopharyngeal cancer patients in the ICU.

**Methods:** Single-center, double-blind randomized control trial. A total of 28 patients that will meet the inclusion criteria: age 30 to 80, postplastic surgery for oral cancer or hypopharyngeal cancer, Apache score <20, and needed EN. Patients will be randomly divided (1:1) into treatment group or control group for 3 treatments in 3 days along



Eyal Ben-Arie is a PhD student at the Graduate Institute of Acupuncture Science, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan. His studies are investigating the role of acupuncture as an integrative therapy in critically ill patients.

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