



Effects of *Herba Patriniae* Aqua-acupuncture on the Type I Hypersensitivity and Cytokine Production

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Objective : Experimental studies were done to research the clinical effects of *Herba Patriniae*(HP) aqua-acupuncture (BL13, BL17, BL13 · BL17 and free points) on the hypersensitive inflammatory response and cytokine production.

Methods : We measured compound 48/80 induced mast cell degranulation index and active systemic anaphylactic shock, acetic acid induced microvascular permeability and passive cutaneous anaphylaxis. And we measured serum total IgE, plasma WBC level, serum total protein, albumin, immunoglobulin and skin tissue nitric oxide levels, IL-1 β , IL-2, IL-4, IL-6, GM-CSF and INF- γ mRNA production in the type I hypersensitivity induced by ovalbumin.

Results : HP inhibited mast cell degranulation. HP aqua-acupuncture pretreatments at all acupoints inhibited active systemic anaphylactic shock induced by compound 48/80 and microvascular permeability increased by acetic acid. In ovalbumin induced type I hypersensitivity, serum total IgE and plasma WBC level inhibited by HP aqua-acupuncture pretreatment at BL13 · BL17 and free points. However, HP aqua-acupuncture didn't effect serum total protein, albumin and immunoglobulin. In ovalbumin induced type I hypersensitive skin tissue, nitric oxide levels inhibited by HP aqua-acupuncture pretreatment. IL-1 β , IL-4, IL-6 and GM-CSF mRNA productions are decreased by HP aqua-acupuncture pretreatment at BL13. IL-2 and INF- γ mRNA production are increased by HP aqua-acupuncture pretreatment at BL13, BL17, BL13 · BL17..

Conclusion : These results suggest that HP aqua-acupuncture may be beneficial in the regulation of type I hypersensitivity.