

A Study on the Safety and Current Trends in Herbal Acupuncture

Dr. Sabina Im

KyungHee University, College of Oriental Medicine, Dept. of Meridian and Acupoint

Herbal acupuncture is one of the treatment modality in Oriental medicine by injecting an herbal extract on the specific point to stimulate and control the meridian functions.

Year 2001 will be marked as the first year that the herbal acupuncture is covered by health insurance and because of the coverage, more Oriental medicine doctors will join 2000 practitioners already using the herbal acupuncture.

For the herbal acupuncture to become competent in the modern medical society, safety and more variety of the herbal extracts must be developed and improve the treatment success rate. This is only

possible with continuous research and proving safety to build confidence among the public.

As the efficacy of herbal acupuncture increase, we cannot rule out the possibilities of medical accident and the safety of the herbal acupuncture was brought up in 1998. To satisfy growing concerns regarding the herbal acupuncture, KIHA managed to open a laboratory that meets the standard of KGMP (Korea Good Manufacturing Practice) in October 2000 to conduct researches for developing new herbal extracts and propagate excellence of the herbal acupuncture. At this time, primary

task for the Oriental medicine community and KIHA is to ensure concrete data on the safeness of the herbal acupuncture and report them in academically recognized journals to be acknowledged by wider audiences.

Through this presentation, we'll examine the significance of safety data and suggest research patterns for proving safeness. In addition, we'll evaluate past and current trends in the herbal acupuncture and lay a foundation to be one of the leading treatment method in Oriental medicine.