

The Positive Effect of Wet Cupping Therapy on Chronic Resistant Facial Palsy

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Abstract

Facial palsy is a lower motor neuron lesion of the facial nerve affecting all ages and both sexes. About 80 % of patients recover spontaneously within 12 weeks. Glucocorticoid improves recovery rates if started within 72 hours of onset. Less than 20% of cases of facial palsy symptoms may persist. Acupuncture with strengthened stimulation was found to be effective in the treatment of facial palsy. Cupping therapy was also mentioned to have an immune enhancement potential.

Objective

This paper is aiming to explore the possible positive effect of cupping therapy on the functional outcome of chronic resistant facial palsy patients.

Method

21 chronic resistant facial palsy Patients were referred from neurology clinic to the cupping clinic in King Abdulaziz University Hospital Jeddah Saudi Arabia. Their facial palsy persisted for 3 to 10 years in spite of medical care. The study is an interventional study. Cupping therapy was performed until patient satisfaction was reached. Cases required between 2 sessions to 10 sessions. Physical and social questioners and nerve conduction study were performed before and after therapy.

Results

Statistically significant improvements were obtained from nerve conduction studies, physical and social assessment questioners. This could indicate a positive effect of cupping therapy on chronic facial palsy cases.

Conclusion

Results from this study give hope for chronic facial palsy cases. Whether other neurological conditions may benefit from wet cupping therapy is interesting to explore.