Short Communication

Apitherapy

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This article is a refresher course on apitherapy, a type of health treatment utilizing bee products, including bee venom[1]. Another term 'apiotherapy'[2] is used in the international medical dictionary denoting treatment with bee venom containing apitoxin. Of note: there are two other terms, hormesis[3] and hormeopathy[4] signify biological mechanisms that might be involved in the therapeutic use of bee venom.

Professor Dr. Fang Zhu[5], President of the Kunming-based International Apitherapy & Bee-Products Society (IABPS), has been recognized as the first modern medical doctor to have introduced in China treatment techniques using bee materials. Four therapeutic techniques are bee acupuncture, beeswax treatment, introduced electrohydronium of bee venom and ultrasonotherapy with bee products. In this paper, the author will cover clinical practice using bee venom only. Therefore, techniques covered in this paper would comprise three modalities, namely, bee acupuncture, electrohydronium and ultrasonotherapy with bee venom.

Bee acupuncture

The use of the sting organs of bees to carry out needling along meridians and points to treat diseases is called bee acupuncture. It is a mixed type of Chinese acupuncture, which would normally combine the use of needles, medicine and moxibustion. The method not only gives patients mechanical stimulus, but it also provides a pharmacological effect by injecting the right amount of liquid into the skin automatically.

In bee acupuncture, the sting pulled out from live bees is used to carry out scattered needling on the affected area or the cutaneous region of the meridian related to the relevant disease. Usually the stringers of 3-5 bees are used to perform scattered

needling on an area. The number of *Apis mellifera* that can be used is about 10 but not more than 25, while that of *Apis cerana indica* can be more.

Bee acupuncture, performed once every two days in 10-15 treatments, constitutes a period. The second period begins 5-7 days after the first.

When treating facial paralysis, cerebral embolism, cerebral thrombosis, bronchial asthma, migraine, hypertension, and thromboangiitis obliterans, it is better to do scattered needlings 1-2 mm. apart, 1-2 times a week. In combining bee acupuncture with Apitherapy activilin, the number of bees needed to strengthen the therapeutic effect and get a curative result is reduced. Scattered needling is also used to maintain health and prevent caducity.

Electrohydronium of bee venom[5]

The treatment is carried out by directing the ions of bee venom into the human body through the skin using direct current, instead of the sting or injection. After treatment, the skin may suffer hyperemia, a slight swelling and itching. The constituents of bee venom, conducted by direct current, act on the body directly or influence the body through nerve reflection and body fluid. With this technique, the therapist needs to choose the part to be treated in order to keep a high concentration of the so-called 'ion piles' for gradual releasing the bee venom ions into the blood stream, so that the therapeutic action would last longer than it would with other medicinal therapy.

Ultrasonotherapy with bee venom

Bee venom therapy can be coupled with ultrasonic therapeutic effects. Conducting the couplant apitherapy through the body surface can be carried out to treat many diseases. It alleviates local inflammation and pain and is claimed to get rid of the effects of rheumatism, while activating blood circulation to dissipate blood stasis, and soften and resolve masses.

In women, lobular hyperplasia of galactophore, chronic adnexitis, oviduct adhesion and oophoritic cyst and so on may be resolved effectively by ultrasonic means through abdomen. Ultrasonic apitherapy conducted through the rectum acts on the prostrate to locally treat chronic prostatitis, chronic prostatic hypertrophy; this is performed once a day, 20 minutes at a time, 10 times per course.

References:

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