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The standardization of acupuncture treatment for radiation-induced xerostomia: A literature review.

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OBJECTIVE: To assess the relative standardization of AP protocols for radiation-induced xerostomia.

METHODS: A literature search was carried out up to November 10, 2012 in the databases PubMed/ MEDLINE, EMBASE and China National Knowledge Infrastructure with the terms: radiation-induced xerostomia, AP, AP treatment, and AP therapy. Five ancient Chinese classic AP works were also reviewed with the keywords "dry mouth, thirst, dry tongue, dry eyes and dry lips" to search the effective AP points for dry mouth-associated symptoms in ancient China.

RESULTS: Twenty-two full-text articles relevant to AP treatment for radiation-induced xerostomia were included and a total of 48 AP points were searched in the 5 ancient Chinese classic AP works, in which the most commonly used points were CV24, GV26, GV27, Jinjin (EX-HN 12), and Yuye (EX-HN 13) on head and neck; LI03, LI01, LU11, SI01, LI08 on hand; KI07, KI04, GB44, LV03, KI06 on foot; ST19, LV13, CV22, LV14 on abdomen; BL13, BL19, BL27, BL18 on back; Earpoints Shenmen, Shen (Kidney), Yidan (Pancreas) and Pi (Spleen).

CONCLUSION: The reviewed AP treatment protocols for radiation-induced xerostomia showed considerable heterogeneities. Based on the review, and on personal experience, the authors provide a recommendation for manual AP protocols in treating radiation-induced xerostomia patients with head and neck cancer. PMID: 26311288 [PubMed - as supplied by publisher]