
Health informatics — Categorical structures for representation of acupuncture —

Part 6: Acupuncture effects

*Informatique de santé — Structures catégoriques pour la
représentation de l'acupuncture —*

Partie 6: Effets de l'acupuncture





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Foreword

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Introduction

Acupuncture therapy is being widely practiced in many countries. Acupuncture therapy is used to treat many diseases by regulating the physiological functions of the internal organs (zang-fu) and body systems. Stimulating the acupoints with an acupuncture needle or with electro acupuncture can directly or indirectly cause changes in organs, tissues, cells, molecules and other chemical substances, then affects physiological or pathological functions in human body or experimental animals. The effects of acupuncture can be measured by laboratory tests or clinical observations.

A large number of clinical research studies and animal experiments have been conducted to assess the mechanism of acupuncture therapy. However, the descriptions of acupuncture effects in clinical reports or experimental reports tend to be insufficient or inconsistent for interpretation of heterogeneity, thus causing difficulties in synthesizing data for analysis. This arises from two reasons:

- a) An appropriate categorial structure for the acupuncture effect has not been formulated;
- b) Semantic associations between the concepts of the acupuncture effect need to be made more explicit.

This document aims at solving these existing problems.