

From: Woodson Merrell [REDACTED]
To: jeffrey E. <jeevacation@gmail.com>
CC: Woodson Merrell <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: FW: acupuncture studies
Date: Sun, 18 Oct 2015 15:06:31 +0000

Don't get fixated on one study out of the hundreds that don't meet criteria.
Call me whenever it works for you today (cell, [REDACTED])—I am in my office. You can also come over for acupuncture.
Let me know.
W

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:jeevacation@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 18, 2015 6:42 AM
To: Woodson Merrell
Subject: Re: FW: acupuncture studies

that would be fun. I m still deciding whether to move ahead , having a citation that never even mentions acupuncture , not even the word is not throwing out the baby, but in my work at harvard would mean serious consequences for the writer. the work on placebo is as extensive and better cited. silly , i am around today and can talk by phone.

On Sat, Oct 17, 2015 at 8:52 PM, Woodson Merrell <[REDACTED]> wrote:
Jeffrey!

There are so many high quality studies. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water.
This report has not been edited for only the high quality ones---but lists the breadth of work presented to JCAHO from my staff (a report from which a committee was constituted and JCAHO this year ended up changing its recommendations to hospitals to include non-pharmacologic approaches to pain as the first go-to, before medications, for in-hospital pain control—including acupuncture and mind-body practices).
If desired I can arrange for a bibliography of only Cochrane-level meta-analyses and RCTs in Western journals.
Would you consider bringing me on as a consultant for this project?
Woody

From: jeffrey E. [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 5:21 AM
To: Woodson Merrell
Subject: Re: FW: acupuncture studies

shame shame shame, . I went to the citations allegedly supporting her claim. being swamped with 15 year old and foreign is usually an indication of sloppy science, but I began to audit , and delve, for ex her citation of Chen CC, Yang CC, Hu CC, Shih HN, Chang YH, Hsieh PH. Acupuncture for pain relief after total knee arthroplasty: a

randomized controlled trial. Reg Anesth Pain Med. 2015;40(1) (Jan-Feb):31-6. why dont you look at the reference. NOT ONE mention of acupuncture, NONE .

On Thu, Oct 15, 2015 at 11:33 PM, Woodson Merrell [REDACTED] wrote:
Jeffrey,

As daffy duck said, "go ahead---I dare you" Tell me there isn't an evidence basis for acupuncture.
This is an amazing document---even for me to view---about the published literature in acupuncture.
I would like to meet with you, Arya and our research director Ben Kligler at some point---with a larger group, or just with you.

Let me know.

Best,
Woody

PS: Call my cell if you want to come in Sunday--I'll be in my office most of the day catching up.

From: Arya Nielsen
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2015 8:13 PM
To: Woodson Merrell
Subject: PDF

Dr. Merrell,

Attached is the revised document that provided the evidence on acupuncture therapies to The Joint Commission. Based on the evidence, they have included acupuncture therapies as a clear part of their recommended strategy to treat pain for both inpatient and outpatient setting.

But you are right to point out acupuncture therapies are effective for problems other than pain. We included some of these in our document including in cardiology, oncology, OB and gynecology and there is more beyond these including applications in debilitating disease such liver, renal, pulmonary cardiovascular, neurological, immune and autoimmune.

At this point in time we know more about acupuncture therapies than ever in history and acupuncture therapies are provided to more patients than ever before in history. Any research we can facilitate to clarify the role of acupuncture therapies in medicine would serve patients and providers in our shared mission of best practice.

Please let me know if I may provide any details beyond what is in this paper.

Respectfully,

Arya

Arya Nielsen, PhD
Director, Acupuncture Fellowship for Inpatient Care
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Phone

Fax

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