UCI Health Regional Burn Center

Successful Implementation of Acupuncture for Hospitalized Burn Patients

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Conclusion

The project demonstrated successful implementation of acupuncture as an adjunct therapeutic modality for the burn inpatient service.

Introduction/Significance

- ❖ The purpose of this project was to incorporate acupuncture as an adjunct modality for pain control and other symptomatology for inpatients on the burn service.
- Acupuncture is beneficial for burn patients, it results in:
 - ✓ Improvement of pain control
 - ✓ Improvement of wound healing
 - ✓ Decreased stress
- ❖ In April 2019, the hospital initiated acupuncture services for inpatients through the Integrative Health (IH) program and hired three licensed acupuncturists and a medical director. The burn team collaborated with IH to develop care delivery guidelines.
- Acupuncture services are provided Monday to Friday, 8 to 5 pm. About 3-5 treatment sessions are offered weekly.

Data Source/ Results

- The attitude survey was completed by 166 health care workers including physicians, nurses, therapists, and social workers.
- ❖ Since April 2019, 20% of hospitalized patients on the burn service received acupuncture referral and the number of patients utilizing acupuncture is increasing. A total of 191 sessions were provided for 22 patients

Lessons learned

Currently, acupuncture for hospitalized! patients is not billed which may be a major barrier in promoting this therapy. However, increased patient satisfaction and symptom relief could potentially offset costs. Future studies should also examine potential impact on wound healing and length of stay of burn patients.

Health care workers' opinion on acupuncture	
Survey Question	Response
Do you believe acupuncture should be offered in hospital?	Yes: 98.2% No: 1.8%
Have you had a patient who received inpatient acupuncture service?	Yes:62.7% No: 28.9% Unknown:8.4%
If yes, would you recommend acupuncture for other patients?	Yes: 97.5% No: 2.5%
Would you want acupuncture for yourself in this hospital?	Yes: 90.4 No: 9.6%
If yes, would you be willing to receive this service during breaks or lunch?	Yes: 93% No:7%
What is your clinical role?	RN:56% PT/OT: 19.3% Physician/ CSW/others:24.7%

