

Ear Acupuncture and Piezo-electric Trial: Patient Advice

Firstly, thank you for participating in this trial. We appreciate your contribution to the advancement of science and healthcare.

In this trial, there are two acupuncture treatment groups (either tiny ear needles or electrical acupuncture stimulation) and a third comparison group. All groups will receive our usual high standard pain treatment. The group who receive needles will have them in place for 2 hours and on completion of the trial they will be removed. The second acupuncture group will have electrical acupuncture stimulation. Electrical-acupuncture uses a 'piezoelectric device', which delivers a very safe electrical discharge near your ear, which sounds like a pen clicking.

To prevent our research team from knowing which group you were in, tapes will be applied to your outer ear. Please do not tell anyone which treatment you received.

Please ring the nurse assist buzzer at approximately 1 and 2 hours after your first medication or ear acupuncture (including electrical acupuncture). We want to know what you are feeling, however, the nurses can get busy at times, so if you can assist us by reminding them at the 1 and 2 hour mark.



Pictures showing application of the ear (ASP) needles and a piezo electrical stimulator.

Who shouldn't enter the trial:

If you have: allergies to tapes, alcohol or gold, chronic pain; a permanent pacemaker; chest pain; valvular heart disease; a bleeding disorder or taking blood thinners (except aspirin); a recent ear infection or trauma; hearing aids; HIV or Hepatitis C; significant immune deficiency or are pregnant, please notify the person enrolling you in the study as you cannot participate.

Potential side adverse effects:

The needles are gold plated and allergic reactions to the gold in them are very low. However, rare side effects can include: fainting, allergic reaction, swelling, bleeding and infection.

Professor Andrew Jan is the principal investigator and can be contacted via St John of God Murdoch Emergency Department for any major urgent problems.

Further information see website: www.edeatrinal.com.au