

# Clinical Trial Protocol

## Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

01 Jul 2026

### Investigating the effect of cupping therapy on respiratory symptoms of patients with COVID-19

#### Protocol summary

##### Study aim

Evaluation of the therapeutic effect of cupping on respiratory symptoms in patients with COVID-19

##### Design

Randomized non-blinded clinical trial, with a sample size of 72, Phase 3 Clinical trial

##### Settings and conduct

The location of the project is Isa Ibn Maryam Hospital in Isfahan and the study will be performed as an A Randomized Clinical Trial.

##### Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: Positive Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR test), age over 18 years, clinical criteria of hospitalization (fever above 38°C or severe cough or shortness of breath or respiration rate more than 24 per minute or oxygen saturation lower than 93%), confirmation of diagnosis by the cooperative infectious disease specialist, patient consent to participate in the plan  
Exclusion criteria: current coagulation disease, obesity, deep vein thrombosis, vertebral fracture, herniated disc, need for current hospitalization in intensive care unit (ICU), pregnancy, lactation, heart failure, chronic renal failure, receiving chemotherapy, receiving corticosteroids, immune deficiency, the presence of an open wound at the site of the cupping

##### Intervention groups

The intervention group, in addition, to be received the prescribed medications to treat COVID-19, will be received the cupping therapy on the posterior side of the thorax for 15 to 20 minutes daily for 5 days. The control group will be received only the prescribed medications for the treatment of COVID-19 according to the protocol of the Ministry of Health.

##### Main outcome variables

The length of hospital stay, fever, muscular pain, dry cough, shortness of breath, erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), CRP, blood cell count, Chest X-ray, Chest computerized tomography (CT) scan

#### General information

##### Reason for update

##### Acronym

##### IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20200428047229N3**

Registration date: **2020-11-25, 1399/09/05**

Registration timing: **registered\_while\_recruiting**

Last update: **2020-11-25, 1399/09/05**

Update count: **0**

##### Registration date

2020-11-25, 1399/09/05

##### Registrant information

##### Name

Hanieh Tahermohammadi

##### Name of organization / entity

##### Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

##### Phone

+98 21 2221 4811

##### Email address

dr.hmohammadi@sbmu.ac.ir

##### Recruitment status

**Recruitment complete**

##### Funding source

##### Expected recruitment start date

2020-09-08, 1399/06/18

##### Expected recruitment end date

2020-12-08, 1399/09/18

##### Actual recruitment start date

empty

##### Actual recruitment end date

empty

##### Trial completion date

empty

##### Scientific title

Investigating the effect of cupping therapy on respiratory symptoms of patients with COVID-19

**Public title**

Effect of cupping on respiratory symptoms of COVID-19

**Purpose**

Treatment

**Inclusion/Exclusion criteria****Inclusion criteria:**

Patients aged 18 to 60 years Diagnosis confirmation by the cooperative infectious disease specialist in the project Patient's consent to participate in the project With inpatient clinical criteria (fever above 38° C or severe cough or shortness of breath or respiratory rate more than 24 per minute or oxygen saturation lower than 93%) Positive PCR

**Exclusion criteria:**

Current incidence of coagulopathy, obesity, deep vein thrombosis, vertebral fracture or herniated disc Need for current hospitalization in ICU Pregnancy Breastfeeding Hearth failure Chronic renal failure Receive chemotherapy Receive corticosteroids Immune deficiency Open wound at the site of cupping

**Age**

From **18 years** old to **60 years** old

**Gender**

Both

**Phase**

3

**Groups that have been masked**

*No information*

**Sample size**

Target sample size: **72**

**Randomization (investigator's opinion)**

Randomized

**Randomization description**

At first due to the inclusion criteria, infectious diseases specialist diagnosis, and positive PCR test, and Samples will be randomly assigned to four blocks using Random Allocation Software. Blocking and allocation sequences for concealment will be done by the non-involved researcher (Allocation Concealment). The sample allocation ratio will be Allocation 1:1 and will be divided into two groups of receiving cupping and control group (Assignment). Then based on blocks and allocation sequences cupping therapy will be given to patients. This is an open-label study and blinding will not happen.

**Blinding (investigator's opinion)**

Not blinded

**Blinding description****Placebo**

Not used

**Assignment**

Parallel

**Other design features****Secondary Ids**

empty

**Ethics committees****1****Ethics committee****Name of ethics committee**

Ethics committee of Vice-Chancellor in Research Affairs - Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Scie

**Street address**

Floor 13, Block A, Ministry of Health & Medical Education Headquarters, Between Zarafashan & South Falamak, Qods Town

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

1985717443

**Approval date**

2020-09-08, 1399/06/18

**Ethics committee reference number**

IR.SBMU.RETECH.REC.1399.563

**Health conditions studied****1****Description of health condition studied**

COVID-19

**ICD-10 code**

U07.1

**ICD-10 code description**

COVID-19, virus identified

**Primary outcomes****1****Description**

Dyspnea

**Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on days 3 and 5 after the start of cupping

**Method of measurement**

By using a pulse oximeter and asking the patient

**Secondary outcomes****1****Description**

Fever

**Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on days 3 and 5 after the start of the medical beer

**Method of measurement**

Mercury thermometer (oral)

## 2

### **Description**

Muscular pain

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on days 3 and 5 after the start of the cupping

### **Method of measurement**

By asking the patient and the Visual Analog Scale (VAS) score

## 3

### **Description**

Dry cough

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on days 3 and 5 after the start of the cupping

### **Method of measurement**

By asking the patient

## 4

### **Description**

ESR

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on the 5th day after the start of the cupping

### **Method of measurement**

Sed rate device

## 5

### **Description**

CRP

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on the 5th day after the start of the cupping

### **Method of measurement**

Agglutination kit

## 6

### **Description**

Cell blood count

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on the 5th day after the start of the cupping

### **Method of measurement**

Cell Counter device

## 7

### **Description**

Chest X-ray

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on the 5th day after the start of the cupping

## **Method of measurement**

Radiology set

## 8

### **Description**

Chest CT scan

### **Timepoint**

At the beginning of the study (before the start of the intervention) and on the 5th day, if requested by the treating physician, it will be recorded.

### **Method of measurement**

CT scan set

## **Intervention groups**

### 1

#### **Description**

Intervention group: Patients in this group receive the treatment of COVID-19 according to the protocol of the Ministry of Health, in addition, they should receive cupping therapy using special disposable plastic cups for cupping therapy, for each patient, for 5 days, once a day for 15 to 20 minutes in the back of the chest (3 glasses on each side).

#### **Category**

Treatment - Devices

### 2

#### **Description**

Control group: Patients in this group receive medication for COVID-19 according to the Ministry of Health protocol.

#### **Category**

Treatment - Devices

## **Recruitment centers**

### 1

#### **Recruitment center**

##### **Name of recruitment center**

Isabn-e-Maryam hospital

##### **Full name of responsible person**

Zahra Aqanouri

##### **Street address**

Isabn-e-Mryam Hospital, Shams Abadi Ave

##### **City**

Isfahan

##### **Province**

Isfahan

##### **Postal code**

8153934691

##### **Phone**

+98 13 3273 4291

##### **Email**

aqanouri@gmail.com

## Sponsors / Funding sources

### 1

#### Sponsor

**Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Dr. Rasool Choopani

**Street address**

Floor 13, Block A, Ministry of Health & Medical Education Headquarters, Between Zarafashan & South Falamak, Qods Town

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

1985717443

**Phone**

+98 21 8145 5618

**Email**

ethics@behdasht.gov.ir

**Grant name****Grant code / Reference number****Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?**

Yes

**Title of funding source**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Proportion provided by this source**

100

**Public or private sector**

Public

**Domestic or foreign origin**

Domestic

**Category of foreign source of funding**

*empty*

**Country of origin****Type of organization providing the funding**

Academic

## Person responsible for general inquiries

**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Hanieh Tahermohammadi

**Position**

Assistant of Traditional Medicine

**Latest degree**

Medical doctor

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Traditional Medicine

**Street address**

Faculty of Traditional Medicine, Shams Alley, Tavanir Station, Valiasr St., Tehran Town

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

1516745811

**Phone**

+98 21 8877 3521

**Email**

dr.hmohammadi@sbmu.ac.ir

**Web page address**

## Person responsible for scientific inquiries

**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Mojgan Tansaz

**Position**

Traditional medicine specialist, Assistant Professor

**Latest degree**

Ph.D.

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Traditional Medicine

**Street address**

No.8 Shams Alley, opposite Street Tavanir, Vali Asr Street, Tehran

**City**

Tehran

**Province**

Tehran

**Postal code**

1516745811

**Phone**

+98 21 8877 3521

**Email**

Tansaz\_mojgan@yahoo.com

## Person responsible for updating data

**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Esfahan University of Medical Sciences

**Full name of responsible person**

Zahra Aqanouri

**Position**

Iranian Traditional Medicine specialist

**Latest degree**

Ph.D.

**Other areas of specialty/work**

Traditional Medicine

**Street address**

Iranian Traditional Medicine health center, at the beginning of West Shariati St., Hakim Nezami St.

**City**

Isfahan

**Province**

Isfahan

**Postal code**

8153934691

**Phone**

+98 13 3273 4291

**Email**

aqanouri@gmail.com

## **Sharing plan**

### **Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Justification/reason for indecision/not sharing IPD**

There is no more information.

### **Study Protocol**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Statistical Analysis Plan**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Informed Consent Form**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Clinical Study Report**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Analytic Code**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

### **Data Dictionary**

No - There is not a plan to make this available