

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

24 Jun 2026

Effectiveness of acupuncture for the initiation of labor at term pregnancy

Protocol summary

Summary

Background: Prolonged pregnancy associates with increased fetal and maternal complications. The necessity of fetal wellbeing testing during these pregnancies increases the costs. The need for induction of labor increases the rate of cesarean section. Acupuncture stimulates the nervous system by stimulating the parasympathetic system and increasing secretion of oxytocin from the central system, and can cause increased uterine contractility and the onset of labor. Using a safe and low cost method for initiation of labor in term pregnancy can reduce fetal and maternal complications, reduce family stress and may also reduce health care costs. Methods: This randomized double blind clinical trial is done in Shohada hospital. Inclusion criteria are singleton pregnancy , GA>38 weeks , no contraindication of vaginal delivery . Acupuncture is done for case group and sham acupuncture for control group. Routine prenatal care is done for two groups .If labor does not initiate until 42 weeks, induction with oxytocin is started. The time of labor onset , the need to induction of labor, vaginal delivery and cesarean section rate, fetal and maternal complications , Apgar score and patient satisfaction are compared between the two groups.

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT201111218151N1**
Registration date: **2011-12-26, 1390/10/05**
Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2011-12-26, 1390/10/05

Registrant information

Name

Ladan Ajori

Name of organization / entity

Shahid beheshti university of medical sciences

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 21 2218 1694

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ajori@sbmu.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Shahid Beheshti university of medical sciences

Expected recruitment start date

2011-02-25, 1389/12/06

Expected recruitment end date

2012-01-26, 1390/11/06

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Effectiveness of acupuncture for the initiation of labor at term pregnancy

Public title

Effectiveness of acupuncture for the initiation of labor at term pregnancy

Purpose

Health service research

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: GA>38 w; singleton pregnancy; cephalic presentation; cervical dilatation < 3 cm; intact membrane; no history of cesarean section; no contraindication of vaginal delivery; no skin lesion on acupuncture space; no psychiatric disorders; no indication for emergency delivery; patient inform consent. Exclusion criteria: patient who wants delivery

before 42 w.

Age

From **15 years** old to **45 years** old

Gender

Female

Phase

N/A

Groups that have been masked

No information

Sample size

Target sample size: **80**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description**Blinding (investigator's opinion)**

Double blinded

Blinding description**Placebo**

Used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features**Secondary Ids**

empty

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

Shahid Beheshti university of medical sciences

Street address

Shahid Beheshti Blv. Yaman street, Chamran highway

City

Tehran

Postal code**Approval date**

2011-02-20, 1389/12/01

Ethics committee reference number

89-01-136-7307

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

Initiation of labor

ICD-10 code

O35.9

ICD-10 code description

Maternal care for (suspected) fetal abnormality and damage, unspecified

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

Initiation of labor

Timepoint

The time between Acupuncture and initiation of labor

Method of measurement

Good contraction of uterus - Cervical dilatation

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

Neonatal Apgar

Timepoint

at last of study

Method of measurement

Apgar score

2**Description**

Fetal complications

Timepoint

at last of study

Method of measurement

History, physical exam

3**Description**

cesarean

Timepoint

at last of study

Method of measurement

hospital documents

4**Description**

Maternal complications

Timepoint

at last of study

Method of measurement

History, physical exam

5**Description**

Induction

Timepoint

at last of study

Method of measurement

hospital documents

Intervention groups**1****Description**

Acupuncture (case group)

Category

Treatment - Other

2

Description

Sham Acupuncture (control group)

Category

Placebo

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Shohada Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Street address

City

Tehran

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Shahid Beheshti university of medical sciences

Full name of responsible person

Seyed Jalaledin Khoshnevis

Street address

Shohada Hospital - Tajrish square

City

Tehran

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

empty

Domestic or foreign origin

empty

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

empty

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Shahid Bheshti university of medical sciences

Full name of responsible person

Leila Nazari

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Gynecologist

Other areas of specialty/work

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Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)

empty

Study Protocol

empty
Statistical Analysis Plan
empty
Informed Consent Form
empty
Clinical Study Report

empty
Analytic Code
empty
Data Dictionary
empty