

## March 2008 Newsletter

Welcome to the March edition of the Acupuncture.com.au newsletter. If you have any articles you wish to contribute to the newsletter for publication you can submit them via email to [info@acupuncture.com.au](mailto:info@acupuncture.com.au)

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

### Research: A Systematic Evaluation of the Impact of STRICTA and CONSORT Recommendations on Quality of Reporting for Acupuncture Trials.

20/02/2008 -

**BACKGROUND:** We investigated whether there had been an improvement in quality of reporting for randomised controlled trials of acupuncture since the publication of the STRICTA and CONSORT statements. We conducted a before-and-after study, comparing ratings for quality of reporting following the publication of both STRICTA and CONSORT recommendations.

**METHODOLOGY AND PRINCIPAL FINDINGS:** Ninety peer reviewed journal articles reporting the results of acupuncture trials were selected at random from a wider sample frame of 266 papers. Papers published in three distinct time periods (1994-1995, 1999-2000 and 2004-2005) were compared. Assessment criteria were developed directly from CONSORT and STRICTA checklists. Papers were independently assessed for quality of reporting by two assessors, one of whom was blind to information which could have introduced systematic bias (e.g. date of publica-

tion). We detected a statistically significant increase in the reporting of CONSORT items for papers published in each time period measured. We did not, however, find a difference between the number of STRICTA items reported in journal articles published before and 3 to 4 years following the introduction of STRICTA recommendations.

**CONCLUSIONS AND SIGNIFICANCE:** The results of this study suggest that general standards of reporting for acupuncture trials have significantly improved since the introduction of the CONSORT statement in 1996, but that quality in reporting details specific to acupuncture interventions has yet to change following the more recent introduction of STRICTA recommendations. Wider targeting and revision of the guidelines is recommended.

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**Journal:** PLoS ONE. 2008 Feb



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### Acupuncture and TCM events for March 2008

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#### **Brisbane - Cosmetic Acupuncture/Ruri Face Diagnosis**

When: 10.00am - 4.30pm, Where: AIAS

Contact: Lynda Roxanne Kingston on 07 5471 6778 or  
lynda@coolumbeachacupuncture.com.au

This is a multi-day event ending on the 09/03

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#### **Melbourne - Cosmetic Acupuncture/Ruri Face Diagnosis**

When: 10.00am - 4.30pm, Where: venue tba

Contact: Lynda Roxanne Kingston on 07 5471 6778 or  
lynda@coolumbeachacupuncture.com.au

This is a multi-day event ending on the 16/03

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#### **Sydney - TaiJi - Inner Power Seminar**

When: 9.00am - 4.00pm, Where:

Contact: Cameron Hall on 0401061430 or cam247@hotmail.com

This is a multi-day event ending on the 16/03

For detailed information on any of these events or if you would like to add your own event to our calendar for free, visit us online at the following address.

[www.acupuncture.com.au/events](http://www.acupuncture.com.au/events)

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