

Alabama Acupuncture Bill



Disclosures

- AOMA is a private non-profit organizations made up of individuals and receives no support from outside agencies
- Opinions expressed today are not those of the VA

Background

- Since the early 1970s, acupuncture has become increasingly popular in America
- Recent high quality studies have shown acupuncture to be effective for many medical conditions
- Recent high quality studies have shown acupuncture to be safe
- We request that the ABME support a Bill to license and regulate the practice of acupuncture in Alabama

Increasingly Popular

- 2007 National Health Interview Survey- estimates 3.1 million adults used acupuncture in the previous year
- 2002 National Health Interview Survey- estimates 2.1 million adults used acupuncture in the previous year



COURTESY: ALABAMA.GOV

Grading the Evidence Through Clinical Tools

- From Up to Date Online- “Well-designed clinical trials have found that both acupuncture and sham acupuncture are more effective than control interventions for low back pain”
- From DYNAMED-“Acupuncture is more effective than conventional therapy for chronic low back pain, but not more effective than sham acupuncture.”

Lower back pain-DYNA MED

- Level 1 (likely reliable)-acupuncture more effective than conventional therapy.
- Level 2 (mid level)-NSAIDs, muscle relaxers, benzos, anti-depressants (duloxetine), CBT, narcotics.
- Limited or conflicting evidence-ESI, spinal fusion surgery, TENs

Acupuncture is generally safe

- A 6 year prospective study in Japan of 65,482 treatments found no major adverse events (Yamashita H., et al. J Altern Complement Med 1999; 5:229)
- A prospective study in Germany constituting 760,000 treatments reported the 2 most common adverse events were needling pain (3.3%) and hematoma (3.2%) (Melchart D., et al. Arch Intern Med 2004; 164:104)

Acupuncture Education

- For licensed acupuncturists-NCCAOM certification (includes over 2000 hours of education, training in CNT, BLS, Western Biomedicine)
- For physicians-successful completion of a 300 hour course approved by the ABMA

Healthcare in the US

- Excellent/world class
- Expensive
- Many measures, such as life expectancy trail other countries

The Alabama Acupuncture Bill

- Regulate the practice of acupuncture through licensing, adding licensure for licensed acupuncturists
- Regulate practice environment such as requiring sterile single use needles and FDA approved electrical devices
- Establish educational requirements to practice acupuncture
- Licensing could add an avenue to investigate incompetent or unethical practice

Why am I the shark tank?

- “To whom much is given, much shall be required.”

Questions/Comments

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