

# PILOT STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF SCALP ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

by

Sherry Mizumoto

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Leslie McCoy, DAOM, LAc

COMMITTEE: Brian Lawenda, MD

## Abstract

**INTRODUCTION:** Chemotherapy-Induced Peripheral Neuropathy (CIPN) has a negative impact on up to 92% of all cancer patients with no specific or effective treatment yet established. This patient population's Quality of Life (QOL) is diminished considerably with symptoms ranging from shock-like pain to numbness. Scalp Acupuncture (SA) has been clinically observed to be highly effective on disorders of the Peripheral Nervous System (PNS) producing outstanding results while remaining a safe, effective mode of therapy.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this study was to determine if SA could decrease the symptoms of CIPN.

**DESIGN:** This quantitative, qualitative, quasi-experimental pilot study sought to determine if utilizing SA would decrease patients' symptoms of CIPN.

Eight participants ( $n=8$ ) with CIPN symptoms were recruited from the University of San Diego (UCSD) Research Cancer Institute in Encinitas, CA.

The Neuropathy Pain Scale (NPS) was the instrument utilized in this study.

**RESULTS:** Using the one-way repeated measure of variance (ANOVA) statistical significance was found ( $p < 0.05$ ). The effect size at 53% was strong with six out of the ten questions on the NPS demonstrating significant decrease.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The analysis presented in this small sample size statistically supports the hypothesis: SA will have a positive impact on the symptoms of CIPN. The significance is seen in six out of the ten questions on the NPS. However, with such a small sample size ( $n = 8$ ) these results cannot be considered reliable.