

THE EFFECTS OF ACUPUNCTURE THERAPY ACCORDING TO THE LÍNG GUǐ BĀ Fǎ
(灵龟八法) ON NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL DEFICITS FROM CHRONIC TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY FROM A CLOSED HEAD INJURY, A FEASIBILITY STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Little is known about how acupuncture can affect symptoms related to traumatic brain injury. Of what has been written or explored concerning this topic, none demonstrate adequately what changes may occur with acupuncture intervention. The present study is a survey to explore this issue to determine the feasibility of conducting a pilot study. The survey questions addressed issues about the pilot study wherein eligible participants undergo pre-neuropsychological evaluation and testing, receive 25 weeks of acupuncture intervention by administering the acupuncture protocol in accord with the Líng Guī Bā Fǎ (灵龟八法), and then receive post-neuropsychological testing to measure any changes. The survey study participants were composed of board certified clinical neuropsychologists, acupuncturists who have earned a DAOM, and traumatic brain injury survivors who have had a closed head injury. The data from the survey results indicate that it is not feasible to conduct a pilot study in the state of California as it is presented in this paper. While 90% of traumatic brain injury survivors indicate an ability to participate as described in this paper, only 30% of acupuncturists and only one neuropsychologist indicate an ability to participate. In conclusion, this feasibility study provides insight on what modifications to the pilot study need to occur to proceed to the next step in determining how acupuncture therapy can affect neuropsychological functioning.

Keywords: acupuncture, traumatic brain injury, TBI, brain, brain injury, neuropsychology, neuropsychological.