

## General Evidence

Citation	Design/Method Sample/Setting	Variables and Intervention	Outcome Measures	Results/Analysis	Limitations	Quality and Nursing Implications
<p>Mao, T., Cheng, Q., Liu, X., &amp; Chen, Y. (2021). Effect of electrical stimulation on gastrointestinal symptoms in lung cancer patients during chemotherapy: A randomized controlled trial. <i>Asia-Pacific Journal of Oncology Nursing</i>, 8(3), 246–254. <a href="https://doi.org/10.4103/apjon.apjon_61_20">https://doi.org/10.4103/apjon.apjon_61_20</a></p>	<p><b>Design:</b> Randomized controlled trial</p> <p><b>Method:</b> Multiple acupoint stimulation</p> <p><b>Sample:</b> 122 patients with lung cancer (intervention group: 61, control group: 61). Baseline characteristics and performance status had no significant differences at start of study. Mean age in the intervention group was 50.66 years (SD = 9.6) and in the control group was 50.48 years (SD = 10.7).</p> <p><b>Setting:</b> Hunan Cancer Hospital, China</p>	<p><b>Independent Variable:</b> Transcutaneous acupoint electric stimulation (TAES) and gastric electrical stimulation (GES) with gastrointestinal (GI)–1 middle/low frequency therapeutic apparatus</p> <p><b>Dependent Variables:</b> GI symptoms: nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, loss of appetite, Karnofsky Performance Status score</p> <p><b>Intervention:</b> TAES and GES were performed for 25 minutes daily for 2 weeks. GI symptoms were measured at 3 time points.</p>	<p>Memorial Symptom Assessment Scale: 32 item scale for common cancer-induced physical and psychological symptoms.</p> <p>Data collection occurred at 3 time points in the 28-day cycle.</p>	<p>Incidence of GI symptoms was not significantly different at time point 1.</p> <p>At time point 2, loss of appetite (80.3% versus 93.4%), nausea (77% versus 96.7%), and constipation (47.5% versus 65.6%) had significantly decreased in the intervention group as compared to the control group (<math>p &lt; 0.05</math>).</p> <p>At time point 3, loss of appetite (77% versus 91.8%), nausea (60.7% versus 96.7%), constipation (34.4% versus 68.9%), and diarrhea (6.6% versus 21.3%) had decreased in the intervention group as compared to the control group (<math>p &lt; 0.05</math>).</p> <p>No adverse events were recorded in the intervention group.</p>	<p>Findings may not be applicable to patient populations other than those with lung cancer receiving chemotherapy.</p> <p>Time points of measurements ended at 28 days. Symptoms may change or worsen after this time period.</p> <p>Recall bias possible</p> <p>Small sample size, although power analysis was performed</p>	<p>Methods were valid and reliable. Findings rely on accuracy of patient self-report of symptoms during treatment with TAES and GES. Routinely providing TAES and GES may be dependent on staff training and feasibility in clinical practice settings.</p> <p>Non-pharmacological interventions are increasingly being explored for management of cancer- and cancer treatment-related symptoms. Acupoint stimulation may have a benefit in reducing the GI symptom burden in patients with lung cancer receiving chemotherapy. Larger randomized trials are needed to validate the findings before standardizing in clinical practice. Use in Western medicine may be limited to availability of this practice and training requirements.</p>