

SAFETY RECORD OF LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED ACUPUNCTURISTS

Incidents Of Complications Due To Acupuncture - Literature Search

<u>Complication</u>	<u>Author/Year</u>	<u>Practitioner</u>	<u>Note</u>
<u>Complications Due To Injury to Internal Organs - Pneumothorax</u>	Schneider & Salzberg Annals of Emergency Medicine 13: 8 (1984)	M.D.	- full recovery - acupuncture licensure (New York) - standards for M.D.s
	Bodner et al Annals of Allergy 51: 401 (1983)	1 non-M.D. 1 not specified	- full recovery in both cases - no set standards (Israel)
	Valenta & Hengesh Lancet 2: 322 (1980)	not specified	- full recovery - acupuncture licensure (California) - no standards for other health professionals
	Goldberg Medical Journal of Australia 1: 941 (1973)	not specified	- full recovery without treatment - no set standards (Australia)
	Stack British Medical Journal 1: 96 (1975)	not specified	- full recovery without treatment - no set standards (England)
	Ritter & Tarala British Medical Journal 2: 602 (1978)	3 cases non-M.D.	- full recovery in all three cases, one without treatment - no set standards (England)
	Mazel et al New England Journal of Medicine 302: 1365 (1980)	not specified	- recovery after hospitalization - acupuncture licensure (New York) - standards for M.D.s
	Corbett & Sinclair New England Journal of Medicine 290: 167 (1974)	not specified	- complete recovery after treatment - no set standards (California 1974) - no standards for other health professionals
	Waldman New England Journal of Medicine 290: 633 (1974)	not specified	- complete recovery after treatment - no set standards (Florida 1974)
	Lewis-Driver Medical Journal of Australia 2: 296 (1973)	non-M.D.	- complete recovery - no set standards (Australia)
Smith & Rauscher Journal of the American Medical Association 229: 1286 (1974)	not specified	- fatal; pneumothorax resolved but patient reserves minimal due to severe pulmonary emphysema and patient died - said was "one-in-a-million" complication - no set standards (Arizona)	

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	Kuiper Journal of the American Medical Association 229: 1422 (1974)	not specified	- full recovery - no set standards (California 1974)
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Cardiac Tamponade	Nieda & Kuribayashi Japanese Journal of Thoracic Surgery 26: 881 (1973)	not specified	- surgery; uneventful post operative recovery - retained needle (Japan)
Compartment Syndrome	Smith et al Western Journal of Medicine 144: 478 (1986)	physician trained in acupuncture	- full recovery - no standards for physicians (Oregon) - noted necessity to weigh possibility of intercompartmental hemorrhage on patients receiving anticoagulation therapy vs. benefits of acupuncture
Renal Complications	Keller Journal of the American Medical Association 222: 1559 (1972)	not specified	- asymptomatic for 35 years, removed without problem - retained needle (China)
	Drake Journal of the American Medical Association 229: 1285 (1974)	not specified	- asymptomatic for "many years"; removed without difficulty - retained needle (China)
	Shiff Medical Times 93: 630 (1965)	non-M.D. self-inflicted	- fatal; authors noted bizarre circumstances of self-inflicted injury - no set standards (Florida 1965)
Spinal Cord Root Injuries	Toyohiko et al Surgical Neurology 23: 255 (1985)	3 cases not specified	- full recovery in 2/3 cases post-op; one case not operated - numb fingers only - authors note rarity of spinal cord injury by acupuncture (Japan)
	Kataoka & Sakata Geka 20: 578 (1958)	unknown	- unknown
	Kondo et al Surgical Neurology 11:155 (1979)	not specified	- minor sensory impairment after surgery - retained needle (Japan)
	Shiraishi & Gota Neurology 29: 1188 (1979)	acupuncturist (unknown if licensed)	- minor sensory impairment after surgery - retained needle technique (Japan)
	Kida et al Archives of Neurology 45: 831 (1988)	not specified	- minor sensory impairment after surgery - authors note rarity of occurrence given thousands of treatments and long history of acupuncture in Japan
	Isa & Sasaki, et al Surgical Neurology 23: 255 (1985)	2 cases not specified	- uneventful post operative course; slight loss of pain and temperature sensation remaining after surgery - retained needle (Japan)

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<u>Miscellaneous</u>	Campbell British Journal of Radiology 55: 875 (1982)	acupuncturists (unknown if licensed or certified)	- persistent backache; no treatment undertaken - retained needle technique - seaman who had visited acupuncture practitioners around the world
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<u>Complications Due to Improper Clean Needle Technique or Improper Sterilization</u> Hepatitis B	Stryker et al Journal of Family Practice 22: 155 (1986)	D.C.	- all recovered - no set standards (Florida chiropractors)
	Kobler et al Schweiz Med Wochenschr 109: 1828 (1979)	physician 3 cases	- no set standards (Switzerland)
	de Galocsy Acta Gastroenterol 45: 224 (1982)	unknown 6 cases	- no set standards (Belgium)
	Li & Shiang Journal of the American Medical Association 243: 1423 (1980)	none	- not a case report - letter re potential infection in China
	Boxal Journal of Medical Virology 2: 377 (1978)	non-M.D.	- all recovered - no set standards (England)
	Alexander et al British Medical Journal 2: 466 (1974)	none	- not a case report - letter re potential infection in China
	Hussain British Medical Journal 3: 41 (1974)	not specified	- author noted other possible causes - no set standards (England)
	Kent et al American Journal of Epidemiology 127: 591 (1988)	35 cases acupuncturist (licensed without examination)	- regulated jurisdiction (RI) but acupuncturist licensed without examination or clean needle technique standards and did not use acceptable CNT procedures
HIV	Vittecoq et al New England Journal of Medicine 320: 4 (1989)	unknown	- only M.D.s may perform acupuncture in France but there are no set standards of training - AIDS symptoms appeared 4 months after initial acupuncture treatment - too short a time for acupuncture to have been the cause of infection
Septicaemia	Pierik Rhode Island Medical Journal 65: 251 (1982)	2 cases not specified	- fatal - other significant health factors noted - acupuncture licensure (Rhode Island)

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Subacute Bacterial Endocarditis	Lee & McIlwain International Journal of Cardiology 7: 62 (1985) Jefferys et al British Medical Journal 287: 326 (1983)	non-M.D. not specified	- full recovery after hospitalization - no set standards (England) - full and uneventful recovery - no set standards (England)
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Petechiae	Bushta American Journal of Diseases of Children 123: 613 (1972)	acupuncturist	- no set standards (California 1972)
Auricular Chondritis or Perichondritis	Davis & Powell Arch Otolaryngol 111: 770 (1985)	not specified	- minimal deformity - no set standards (Illinois)
	Allison & Kravitz New England Journal of Medicine 293: 780 (1975)	not specified	- acceptable appearance after 2 weeks of treatment - no set standards (California 1975)
	Jones Journal of Laryngology and Otology 99: 1143 (1985)	4 cases not specified	- complete recovery without deformity - no set standards (Ireland)
	Baltimore & Moley Archives of Otolaryngology 102: 572 (1976)	acupuncturist (unknown if licensed or certified)	- complete recovery without scarring - acupuncture licensure (Massachusetts)
	Trautermann H.N.O. 29: 312 (1981)	Heilpraktiker (similar to naturopath)	- no set standards (West Germany)
Osteomyelitis	Jones & Cross Journal American Podiatry Association 70: 149 (1980)	not specified	- slight scar after antibiotics and surgery; no further symptoms - regulated jurisdiction (Korea) but no clean needle technique standards and little enforcement of licensing
Spinal Infection Mimicking Prolapsed Disc	Hadden et al Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery 64: 624 (1982)	D.O.	- uneventful post-op course; painfree 9 months later except when lifting very heavy weights - no set standards (U.K.)
<u>Miscellaneous</u> Contact Dermatitis due to Allergy to Nickel in Acupuncture Needles	Romaguera et al Contact Dermatitis 7: 156 (1981)	referred to as "the doctor"	- patient allergic to neomycin & nickel in permanent needle; cleared when both discontinued - no set standards (Spain)
	Romaguera & Grimalt Contact Dermatitis 5: 195 (1979)	not specified	- resolved in 18 days with conventional treatment and discontinuance of the acupuncture
	Fisher, Alexander CUTIS 50: 226 (1992)	acupuncturist (unknown if licensed or certified)	- regulated jurisdiction (NY) - author noted no problem with prior acupuncture treatments; assumed different needle composition
Complications with Cardiac Pacers	Fujiwara Chest 78: 96 (1980)	M.D.	- observations during surgery with acupuncture analgesia due to cardiac condition

SAFETY RECORD OF LICENSED, CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED ACUPUNCTURISTS

Complaints and Disciplinary Actions Between January 1 – December 31, 2000

State	# of Licensees	Injuries from Acupuncture		Sexual Harassment		Unlicensed Practice		Unethical Practice		Other	
		# of Complaints	# of Disciplinary Actions	# of Complaints	# of Disciplinary Actions	# of Complaints	# of Disciplinary Actions	# of Complaints	# of Disciplinary Actions	# of Complaints	# of Disciplinary Actions
AK	47	Not Pub Info	0	Not Public	0	Not Public	0	Not Public	0	Not Public Info	0
AZ	142	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	5321 Active	6	1	7	2	Not listed	Not listed	39	20	5 Lack W Treat 32 Unspec 3 Outside Scope	2 Lack W T 10 Unspec 2 Outside Sc
CO	386	2	0	1	0	8	2 Pending 6 Dismissed	0	0	0	0
CT	163	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
*DC	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IA	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*ID	45 L.Ac./ 62 C.A.	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
*IN	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MA	805	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	1 False Advert'g 1 False Answer on Renewal App 1 Prof. Miscond't 1 Substd Care 2 Herb Reg Viol	0
MD	720	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	1	1 Advertising	1
ME	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MN	119	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
MO	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MT	117	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC	146	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NH	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NM	498	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 Educ. Issues 1 Title	0
NV	29	Unknown	0	Unknown	0	Unknown	0	Unknown	0	Not Known	0
NY	1200	5 Negligence/ Incompetence	2	0	1	0	0	17	7	19 Aid & Abet Illegal Practice 1 Fee; 1 Inspec 1 Recordkeeping 6 Miscellaneous	22
*OH	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OR	326	2	0	1	Pending	0	0	0	0	1 Injury fm Lack of W. Med Treat.	0
*PA	545	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1 outside scope; 1 disc. in other state
RI	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
*SC	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TN	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
*TX	409	Not Public	0	Not Public	0	Not Public	0	0	0	Not Public Info	0
UT	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
*VA	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 Ch. Herbology 2 Outside Scope	3
VT	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 Failure to Release Record	0
WA	535	1	1	1	0	1 Fraud Re: License	1 Fraud Re: License	0	0	1 Inform Consent Of Minor; 1 Std of Care	2

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WI	133	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	12,384	11	4	17	6 (1 Pend)	14	1 (2 Pend)	62	28	88	44

*Denotes some form of western medical co-care (referral, supervision, prior diagnosis, etc.)

Complaints and Disciplinary Actions Between July 1992 and May 1999

<u>State</u>	Injuries From Acupuncture	Injuries From Herbs	Injuries Due to Use of Acupuncture Instead of Medical Treatment	Other	Complaints & Disciplinary Actions
Alaska	0	0	0	0	Complaints not public inform'n 0 actions
California (data unclear re: how many years it covers)	16 complaints negl/incompet (2 with injuries), 2 actions	N/A	0	16 complaints sexual misconduct, 6 actions; 76 unprof conduct, 38 actions; 24 complaints unlicensed practice; 41 other, 5 actions	173 complaints 51 actions
Colorado	1 complaint	0	0	4 sexual harassment (one person), 1 action; 2 CNT complaints, 1 action; 9 unlicensed/beyond scope, 4 actions	16 complaints 6 actions
Hawaii				2 complaints of unlicensed practice; 10 other	12 complaints
Maine	1 complaint	0	0	1 complaint unethical practice	2 complaints 0 actions
Maryland	1 complaint, 1 revocation	0	0	1 complaint of sexual harassment, 3 of unethical practice (advisory letter issued)	5 complaints 2 actions
Massachusetts	0	0	0	2 complaints sexual harassment, 2 unethical practice; 3 other, 1 action	7 complaints 1 action
Minnesota	0	0	0	2 complaints of sexual harassment, 2 actions	2 complaints 2 actions
Nevada	0	0	0	1 complaint of sexual harassment, no action	1 complaint 0 actions
North Carolina	1 complaint, no action	0	0	1 complaint of unethical practice, 0 actions	1 complaint 0 actions
Oregon	0	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Pennsylvania	2 complaints of incompetence, 1 of malpractice/negl	0	0	4 complaints outside scope/no referral, a action; 2 abuse/sex misconduct; 11 unlic pract; 13 other	33 complaints 3 actions
Rhode Island	2 complaints	0	0	0	2 complaints 0 actions
South Carolina	0	0	0	1 complaint of sexual harassment, 1 action; 5 other	6 complaints 1 action
Utah	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Virginia	0	0	0	5+ complaints re: advertising, unlicensed practice (1 person)	5+ complaints 0 actions
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	0

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Based on a survey by the National Acupuncture Foundation May 20, 1999

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Safety Record Survey July 1992

<u>State</u>	<u>Licensure for Acupuncturists</u>	<u>Number of Acupuncturists</u>	<u>Number of Injuries Caused by Acupuncturists</u>	<u>Number of Injuries Attributed to Use of Acupuncture Instead of Medical Treatment</u>
Alaska	2 years	7	0	0
Arizona	no licensing	3 Physician's Assistants	0	0
California	16 years	3700	unknown	unknown number
Colorado	2.5 years	99	0	unknown
Delaware	not licensed but permitted to practice under MD supervision for 6 years	Unknown	0	0
District of Columbia	6 years	42	0	0
Hawaii	18 years	252	9 complaints - 6 of misconduct or unethical practice, 2 of incompetence	unknown
Louisiana	17 years	0 at this time	0	0
Maine	4 years	38	0	0
Massachusetts	19 years	356	0	0
Michigan	none	Unknown	0	0
Minnesota	none	Unknown	2	0
New Jersey	9.5 years	45	0	0
New Mexico	14 years	236	0	0
New York	16 years	270	0	0
Rhode Island	12 years	23	0	0
South Carolina	18 years	3	0	0
Utah	9 years	20	0	0
Washington	7 years	136	0	0
Wisconsin	2 years	75	0	0

Based on a survey of state licensing agencies by Ralph Nesson, R.Ac. and Ralph Coan, M.D., July 1992