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# ACUPUNCTURE AS THERAPEUTIC MODALITY FOR ANXIETY: A REVIEW

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#### ABSTRACT

Anxiety is a frequent human emotion marked in a sense of dread and followed by a slew of physiological changes. Researchers believe that the effect of factors such as genetics, family history, and exposure to negative life events are responsible. Anxiety disorders are treated with acupuncture, a popular Chinese medical treatment. There are a total of twelve different forms of Acupuncture. The two main types of Acupuncture are traditional and western. Chinese acupuncture, Japanese acupuncture, Korean acupuncture, master Tung acupuncture, and yin tang acupuncture are all examples of Traditional Acupuncture. When conducted by skilled practitioners, it is a safe practice. Acupuncture complications are uncommon and usually stem from a lack of sterile procedure. Clinical trials using Acupuncture for pain syndromes, stroke rehabilitation, Parkinson's illness, multiple sclerosis, and substance abuse are all investigated. Studies had confirmed the efficacy of acupuncture towards anxiety. It has been effective along with the commitment of the patients to pharmacological treatments and other complementary and alternative medicines.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Anxiety is felt by many patients such as during in vitro fertilization treatment and before learning the outcome of a treatment session [1], preoperative patients [13], medical workers due to their high intensity work [3], and many more. Anxiety's exact cause is still not known. Researchers believe that there is no single cause, but rather a combination of factors such as genetics, family history, and exposure to negative life events. Feeling overwhelmed accompanied by many peripheral physiological changes are common characteristics of anxiety. Because they are relatively effortless to estimate, the latter have provided an easy method of analyzing anxiety, yet, the possibility of being too simplistic of the relation amongst distinguishing anxiety and the edge of the secondary phenomenon. Striving to dissuade anxiety had frequently ineffective in resolving the issue . Furthermore, despite efforts to develop rational schemata, medical categorization of anxiety and linked conditions remains primarily[51].

Anxiety symptoms can be exacerbated by certain medical conditions such as Chronic sleep deprivation [49], adrenal gland tumor, hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism, and chronic migraine [4] and medications [25] that contains caffeine such as aspirin, acetaminophen, ergotamine, as they stimulate nervous system which can rev up the heart and blood pressure making the patient jittery, nervous and anxious. Symptoms of anxiety can be observed in those patients taking corticosteroids that include cortisone, dexamethasone, and prednisone. ADHD drugs are stimulants for the brain, they change the way the nerve cells send messages and makes a patient restless and anxious especially those that are taking in high doses. ADHD drugs include Amphetamine, Dexmethylphenidate, Lisdexamphenidate, Methylphenidate. Moreover, asthma medications make mood disorders worse, such as depression and anxiety such as Albuterol, Salmeterol, and Theophylline [51].

Acupuncture is a popular Chinese medical treatment for anxiety disorders [13], it is a well-established medical system that has existed for thousands of years. [2]. Acupuncture consists of not only one but twelve different types. Traditional Acupuncture and Western Acupuncture are the two main groups, with nine types falling into the Traditional category and three falling into the Western category. Traditional acupuncture includes Chinese acupuncture, Japanese acupuncture, Korean acupuncture, master Tung acupuncture, and yin tang acupuncture. Western acupuncture, on the other hand, includes dry needling medical acupuncture, auricular acupuncture, and electroacupuncture [52]. When performed by trained professionals, acupuncture is a safe procedure. Acupuncture complications are uncommon and are usually the result of poor sterile technique.

Acupuncture research is fraught with difficult methodologic issues, such as selecting a placebo, an appropriate control treatment, and the stimulation technique used [40]. Clinical trials of acupuncture for pain aches (headache, neck, and back pain), stroke rehabilitation, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and chemical dependence have been investigated [41].

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A journal review conducted from published reviews, systematic reviews and journals from PubMed, Plos One, Medicine, Sage Pub, Sleep foundation, Biomed Central, Hindawi, Frontiers, ScienceDirect and Plos Medicine Websites. The authors of this academic writing had reviewed the

above literature in ascertaining the adequacy of *acupuncture* in managing *anxiety*. Diverse related mental illnesses, other diseases, lifestyles, individual circumstances, comparison of *Acupuncture* to pharmacological response and other treatments were related, or relates, to anxiety in the listed articles had been scientifically claiming the effectiveness of *acupuncture* in patients for managing the mental health effect of these, the *anxiety* [1-50]. Instances of diseases; *chronic migraine*, other psychiatric symptoms related to *anxiety*, *comorbid generalized anxiety disorder* as well as *irritable bowel syndrome*, *polycystic ovarian syndrome*, *chronic stable angina pectoris*, *Adults with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*, *Depression-Related Insomnia*, *Lumbar Disk Protrusions linked to Neurological Symptomatology* and *Depression* [4,9,12,18,19,28,33,34,37,47,48,50]. As for medical treatments committed by the patients; women involving *IVF* procedures, dental procedures and surgeries [1,6,16,20]. Also, circumstances such as healthcare workers full-time functioning during the massive occurence of *COVID-19* and menopause on women, Preoperative anxiety [1, 6,13,29].

Comparison of acupuncture to other complementary alternative medicine such as indulging in *Lavender Oil Aromatherapy* to ease anxiety for patients with cardiovascular problems, and pharmacologic treatments were also reviewed for this journal review [13,17,38]

#### 3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Acupuncture is a profoundly used medical system that has been around for years. Acupuncture was utilized by IVF patients in optimism to enhance their progenetive results, literatures propose that anxiety was managed. Acupuncture has been shown to alleviate gastrointestinal symptoms in FGID patients. However, the effectiveness of acupuncture for migraine prevention has not been proven [1,2,4,10]. The Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale had been utilized for the assessment of anxiety existing in children and young adults. When compared to SSRI-only antif-anxiety therapy, acupuncture associated with SSRIs can significantly improve anxiety state. Auricular acupuncture showed that it is a factual alternative regimen for anxiety problems [3,6-8]. During abstinence, electroacupuncture enhances psychiatric symptoms, anxiety, and depression in MA addicts and promotes patient recovery. However, the findings did not support electroacupuncture's efficacy for comorbid generalized anxiety disorder and inflammatory bowel disease [5,9]. Anxiety disorder is a psychiatric disorder that frequently coexists with depression in primary care settings. Anxiety, if left untreated, can lead to more severe and complicated health problems [21,25,28].

In the year of 2008, a meta-analysis literature had confirmed the efficacy of acupuncture to other mental illnesses related to anxiety such as depression. Another journal had the same assert regarding acupuncture's efficacy accompanied with counseling sessions of the patient [45,50]. A journal that distinguished acupuncture's effectiveness in treating anxiety and sadness in patients with gastrointestinal problems, Acupuncture had scientifically proved its validity. Aside from that, *insomnia*, a major symptom to determine anxiety, as well as *sleep deprivation* that is caused by the same illness, which is also related to depression, can be managed with acupuncture [10,47-49].

Acupuncture on the treatment of anxiety proved that the patients are less stressed. Another study that talks about *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder* was studied in 2021, and 24 studies were examined which employed animals to simulate the *pathophysiology* of people and found that acupuncture reduced anxiety, improved sleep, and reduced depressive symptoms [35,41]. Additionally, acupuncture is more successful in treating the symptoms of patients with anxiety, according to a study, and it can also be utilized in patients with *emotional trauma*, *panic disorder*, *phobias*, *social anxiety disorder*, and *separation anxiety disorder*. Furthermore, a study on dealing with anxious patients claims that acupuncture is not frequently used, but the study shows that they are 100% helpful in patients with anxiety. Aside from that, we can combine acupuncture and western medicine used for neurological disorders [36,40]. Acupuncture advantages in menopausal womens was also evaluated on 209 women, both premenopausal and postmenopausal, between the ages of 45-50, and it was found that acupuncture has been demonstrated to have a positive effect on females mind. Acupuncture was studied in the treatment of various disorders related to the brain, however the findings were all unsatisfactory due to a lack of available data in acupuncture [37,39].

A study of clinical uses for acupuncture for depression emphasized that acupuncture is a common medication for a number of medical conditions, including psychological conditions such as depression. Acupuncture has been widely utilized as a traditional therapy in a, it might also be a potential strategy for treating anxiousness and IBS in western medicine problems. [9,31-33,43,44]. Furthermore, an integrative review published in 2016 in a standardized anxiety setting, eleven of the 19 acupuncture sites demonstrated acupuncture's treatment-specific advantages on the physiological response [11,23]. In addition, *electroacupuncture* is comparable to acupuncture, a widely used type of traditional *Chinese medicine*, and shown to be successful in the treatment of anxiety [15,17]. Moreover, *auricular acupuncture* has the potential to be an effective alternative treatment for situational anxiety, preoperative anxiety, sleep difficulties, and the unpleasant symptoms of *temporomandibular disorders (TMDs)*. We read that there are four studies concluded that auricular acupuncture was considered appropriate and practical as a treatment for *insomnia* symptoms and preoperative anxiety, and pre interventional anxiety linked to increased mortality and morbidity, with no side effects or problems [6,12,13,16,27].

#### TABLE:

Authors	Kinds of Acupuncture	Therapeutic Evidence
1. Smith, C., Lacey, S., Chapman, M.,		Women have lower emotional well-being three
Ratcliffe, J., Norman, R., Johnson,	In vitro fertilization (IVF)	months after an IVF cycle. Acupuncture may cause
N., & Fahey, P. (2019)		reduction of anxiety.

2.	Mallory, M. Do, A., Bublitz, S., Veleber, S., Bauer, B., & Bhagra, A. (2016)	Myths of acupuncture	When executed correctly by qualified professionals, acupuncture is an effective and safe mechanism of action. It is critical to educate both the client and the medical field.
3.	Dincer, B. & Inangil, D. (2020)	Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT)	EFT activity reduced stress, anxiety, and exhaustion in nurses treating COVID-19.
4.	Liu, L. Peng Zhao, L., Zhang, C., Zeng, L., Wang, K., Zhao, J., Wang, L., Jing, X., & Li, B. (2018)	Acupuncture as prophylaxis for chronic migraine	Acupuncture may be used to treat chronic migraines when pharmacological prophylaxis is ineffective.
5.	Zeng, L. Tao, Y., Hou, W., Zong, L., & Yu, L. (2018)	Electro-acupuncture on the improvement of psychiatric symptoms	During abstinence, electroacupuncture enhances  psychiatric problems, anxiety, and depression in  MA addicts and encourages patient restoration.
6.	Wunsch, J., ao, Hou, Zong, & Yu. (2018)	Auricular acupuncture	As a therapy for preoperative anxiety, auricular acupuncture was both appropriate and viable.
7.	Gol, A., Ardani, A., Farahmand, S., Dadgarmoghaddam, M., Ghorani, V., Rezaei, S., & Khorsand, A. (2021)	Serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)	When compared to SSRI only anti-anxiety therapy, acupuncture combined with SSRIs can greatly enhance anxiety conditions.
8.	Leung, B., Takeda, W., & Holec, V. (2018)	Acupuncture in the treatment of pediatric anxiety	This research reveals promising results when using acupuncture to handle anxiety symptoms in children and young adults.
9.	Ping Mak, A., Chi Ho Chung, V., Yuen, S., Tse, Y., Wong, S., Ju, Y., Hung, S., Leung, K., You, J., Lui, R., Wong, S., Ngo Wang Leung, O., Chiu Wa Lam, L., Lee, S., & Che Yuen Wu, J. (2019)	Electroacupuncture	The findings did not support electroacupuncture's efficacy for comorbid generalized anxiety disorder and irritable bowel syndrome.

10. Wang, L. Xian, J., Sun, M., Wang, X., Zang, X., Zhang, X., Yu, H., & Tan, Q. (2022)	4. ACUPUNCTURE FOR EMOTIONAL SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS	Acupuncture, according to this meta-analysis, soothes emotional problems in FGID clients stronger than pharmacotherapy.
11. Fleckenstein, J., Kruger, P., &  Ittner, K. (2018)	Acupuncture point Heart 7 (HT7)	In a maternal separation model, acupuncture at HT7 states the figure of lessened stress related behavior and to alter the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal pathway.
12. Dos Reis, A. C., Oliveira, T., Vidak, C., Borsatto, M., Valente M. (2021)	Auricular Acupuncture	Auricular Acupuncture was beneficial in lowering sleep disturbance symptoms, and our findings suggest that it may help with anxiety and TMD discomfort.
13. Zanella, S.,Buccelletti, F.,  Vassiliadis, A., De Bortoli, R.,  Visentini, S., Pedrotti, G., Azzalin  L. (2022)	Auricular and Somatic Acupuncture	Somatic and auricular acupuncture are more successful than pharmaceutical therapy. Auricular Acupuncture is less difficult to put into practice than Somatic Acupuncture.
14. Armond, A. C. V., Glória, J.C.R., dos Santos, C.R.R., Galo, R.,Falci, S.G.M. (2017)	Placebo acupuncture	When compared to placebo acupuncture, acupuncture performed better in controlling oedema. There is an absence of statistical comparison distinguishing acupuncture and control subjects in discomfort, dystonia, or anxiety management.
15. Amorim, D., Brito, I., Caseiro, A., Figueiredo, J., Pinto, A., Macedo, I., Machado, J.(2022)	Electroacupuncture	The results reveal that the <i>anxiety</i> levels improved after the procedure, as indicated by the <i>BAI</i> , <i>GAD-7</i> , and <i>OASIS</i> on fifth and tenth sessions of acupuncture and electroacupuncture, respectively.

16. Patsalis, P. C., Patsalis, A., Rauscher, H.G., Schaefers, C., Useini, D., Strauch, J.T., Zahn, P., Dobos, G., Mügge, A., Cramer, H. (2022)	Auricular Acupuncture combined with lavender oil aromatherapy	Based on the literature from the British Journal of  Analgesics, auricular acupuncture mixed with  lavender oil aromatherapy can lower pre- interventional stress and hypertension in  cardiovascular patients.
17. Wang, Z., Dong, H., Wang, Q., Zhang, L., Wu, X., Zhou, Z., Yang, L., Huang, D. (2019)	Electroacupuncture	EA seems to improve stress symptoms and life quality in PCOS patients, and it may dominate plasma concentrations of NE and 5-HT.
18. Zhang, S., Wang, Y., Zhang, C. Zhang, C.P., Xiao, P., Qian-feng, L. Liang, W., Pan, X., Zhou, M. (2022)	Interactive Dynamic Scalp Acupuncture	Acupressure can assist people who are candidates for open-heart surgery feel less nervous. Based on the literature from the University of California, San Diego. More massive and rigorous study in confirming the results.
19. Khoram, B., Yoosefinejad, A., Rivaz, M., Najafi, S. (2020)	Acupressure	Using acupressure in patients who are eligible for open-heart surgery can help them feel less anxious, according to a study by researchers at the University of California, San Diego. More large-scale and rigorous research is needed to confirm the findings of this study.
20. Sniezek, D. P., Siddiqui, I. (2013)	Traditional acupuncture	In all six studies, <i>acupuncture</i> and at least one control had a statistically significant difference.  Acupuncture appears to be a viable therapy option.  Four studies were of adequate quality, while the other two were of low quality.
21. Choi, S., Geun-Woo, K. (2018)	Acupuncture for anxiety	Acupuncture has been shown in numerous clinical trials to have anti-allergy effects.

22. Pilkington, K., kirkwood, G., Rampes, H., Cummings, M., Richardson, J. (2007)	5. ACUPUNCTURE FOR ANXIETY AND ANXIETY DISORDERS	Some limited evidence that auricular acupuncture can help with perioperative anxiety.
23. Goyatá, S., Avelino, C., Marques dos Santos, S., Inácio de Souza Junior, D., Gurgel, M. Terra, F. (2015)	Acupuncture in treating anxiety	The results show that <i>acupuncture</i> has a major impact on <i>anxiety</i> reduction when compared to standard therapies.
24. Yu, Z. (2020)	Acupuncture for anxiety disorder of coronavirus disease 2019	Acupuncture has been seen in studies to reduce  anxiety disorder and to provide traditional medical  treatment for clinical decisions.
25. Amorim, D., Amado, J., Brito, I., Fiuza, S., Amoim, N., Costeira, C., Machado, J. (2018)	Acupuncture and electroacupuncture for anxiety disorders	Acupuncture therapy for anxiety disorders is supported by scientific evidence because it delivers efficient outcomes with minimal side effects than standard therapies.
26. Tu, M., Jiang, Y., Yu, J., Hanong, H., Liao, B., He, X., Fang, J. (2021)	Acupuncture for treating chronic stable angina pectoris associated anxiety and depression	Acupuncture can be utilized as an adjunct treatment for treating CSAP induced anxiety and deprfdeceaession.
27. Tong, Q., Liu, R., Zhang, K., Gao, Y., Cui, G., Shen, W. (2020)	Acupuncture therapy	Acupuncture therapy may lessen anxiety in patients undergoing surgery, yet, research outcomes has to be clarified further.
28. Chan-Young Kwon & Boram Lee (2018)	Acupuncture or Acupressure on Yintang	Acupuncture or acupressure on Yintang was mainly used to relieve participants' postoperative pain.
29. Asher, G., Gerkin, J., Gaynes, B. (2017)	Complementary Therapies for Mental Health Disorders	Skepticism about such treatments has increased interest in and utilization of complementary therapies such as acupuncture, meditation, and natural products.

30. Trkulja, V., & Barić, H. (2020)	Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in the Treatment of Anxiety Disorders	CAM encompasses a wide range of non-mainstream forms of treatment that are progressively utilized in the treatment for the classes of disorders, including anxiety disorders.
31. Grant, S., Colaiaco, B., Motala, A., Shanman, R., Sorbero, M., Hempel, S. (2018)	Acupuncture for PTSD	The study found relatively low QoE and significant differences in favor of acupuncture and there is an absence of comparison in post-intervention depression symptoms, anxiety symptoms, 4 RCTs, or sleep quality between acupuncture and comparators.
32. Tu, C., MacDonald, I., Hung Chen, Y.(2019)	Acupuncture on Glutamatergic Neurotransmission	More diagnosis and clinical research must elucidate the potential procedfhas bures of <i>acupuncture</i> in various <i>neuropsychiatric illnesses</i> and to develop management strategies.
33. Roh, H. S., Park, B. R., Jang, E. Y., Kim, J. S., & Gwak, Y. S. (2018)	Manual, electrical, and laser on acupuncture	Acupuncture reduces return to drug-seeking behavior through inhibiting the stress response.  Acupuncture has been shown to be beneficial in the treatment of drug addiction as well as stress-related mental illnesses including anxiety and depression.  As a result, it is plausible to hypothesize that acupuncture reduces back-to-drug-seeking behavior.
34. Tarsha, M. S., Park, S., & Tortora, S. (2020)	Traditional acupuncture	Acupuncture has been shown to be effective in treating migraines, Parkinson's disease symptoms, severe osteoarthritis, neck and back pain, and but it showed that is ineffective in treating carpal tunnel syndrome, postoperative abdominal discomfort, and constant, long-term pain relief.

35. Kwon, C. Y., Lee, B., & Kim, S. H. (2021)	Traditional Acupuncture and Electro- acupuncture	Acupuncture therapeutic mechanisms suggested study may be separated into two categories: (1) stress response regulation in the nervous and endocrine systems and (2) activation of neuroprotective effects, regeneration, and postsynaptic. Plasticity in various brain sites. Yet, the legitimacy of the said animal research was low and is insufficient to generate compelling data.
36. Weisfeld, C. C., Turner, J. A.,  Bowen, J. I., Eissa, R., Roelk, B.,  Ko, A., Dunleavy, K., Robertson,  K., & Benfield, E. (2021)	Acupressure	Acupressure has not been thoroughly examined, yet it is completely successful in lowering patient anxiety in a variety of procedural contexts.
37. Mehrnoush, V., Darsareh, F., Roozbeh, N., & Ziraeie, A.(2021)	Traditional Acupuncture	One research looked at <i>acupuncture's</i> short- and long-term impact on quality of life indices in 209 respondents. A meta-analysis evaluating <i>acupuncture's</i> effectiveness in treating <i>anxiety disorders</i> has also found that acupuncture is effective.
38. Tan, A., Wang, M., Liu, J., Huang, K., Dai, D., Li, L., Shi, H., & Wang, P. 2020)	Acupuncture combined with western medicine	Western drugs are thought to improve the therapeutic impact of acupuncture and massage. A substantial number lliteratres have demonstrated the effectiveness and efficacy of acupuncture for the treatment of anxiety disorders.
39. Rabinstein, A. A., & Shulman, L. M. (2003)	Traditional acupuncture	Acupuncture is beneficial in managing sleep  difficulties involved with Parkinson's disease, but  not in treating the clinical manifestations of either  PD or sclerosis.
40. Yang, Xyun, Yang, Nbo, Huang, Ffang, Ren, S., & Li, Zjiang. (2021)	Acupuncture for anxiety	According to the findings, acupuncture treatment for reducing anxiety in GAD participants has been effective.

41. Evans, N. (2011)	Acupuncture for Anxiety	Acupuncture treatment lends credence to the use of acupuncture to dramatically lessen anxiety symptoms in both animal and human subjects.
42. Xiang, H. Li, J., Li, B., Tan, Q., & Cai, G. (2021)	Trends of Acupuncture Therapy on  Depression	The bibliometric results of this analysis provide an overview of current related research in <i>acupuncture</i> treatment for <i>depression</i> .
43. Wu, J., Yeung, A. S., Schnyer, R., Wang, Y., & Mischoulon, D. (2012)	Acupuncture for Depression	Acupuncture has the possibility to be a great alternative monotherapy for depression and a possible accretion for AD partial responders and nonresponders.
44. Li, H., Yun,C., Hu, Ziyi, Jiawang, J., Ye, J., Zhou, Y., Yu, Z., Tang, H. (2021)	Acupuncture for anxiety and depression in irritable bowel syndrome	Acupuncture is a concise and widespread remedy for digestive diseases.
45. Dong, B., Chen, Z., Yin, X., Li, D., Ma, J., Yin, P., Cao, Y., Lao, L., & Xu, S. (2017)	Acupuncture for Treating Depression-Related  Insomnia	Acupuncture treatment was more efficient than medication in enhancing depression-related insomnia and depression.
46. Longworth, W., & McCarthy, P. W. (2007)	Acupuncture for the Treatment of Lumbar  Disk Protrusions and Associated  Neurological Symptomatology	In the West, AP is being used as a supplemental therapy for lumbar paresthesia and sciatica, but should continue to be the preferred treatment for cauda equina compression (CPP) in most cases. It can reduce the need for more intrusive procedures such as surgery.
47. Pilkington, K. (2010)	Traditional Acupuncture	Several clinical studies have looked into changes in neurotransmitter levels as well as other wide range of biological modifiers, in addition to clinical response, in an effort to clarify the particular biological activities of acupuncture.

48. MacPherson, H., Richmond, S., Bland, M., Brealey, S., Gabe, R., Hopton, A., Keding, A., Lansdown, H., Perren, S., Sculpher, M., Spackman, E., Torgerson, D., & Watt, I. (2013)	Traditional acupuncture and counseling	Acupuncture and counseling for patients presenting with depression have been linked with significantly lower levels of depression in a span of 3 months distinguished from standard care alone, based in the literature of Journal of Clinical Acupuncture and Complementary Therapies.
49. Hanson, J. A. & Huecker, M. R. (2021)	N/A	N/A
50. Patel, A. (2022)	Chinese acupuncture, Japanese acupuncture, Korean acupuncture, Master Tung, Yin Tang Acupuncture, Western Acupuncture, Dry Needling, Medical Acupuncture, Auricular acupuncture, Electroacupuncture	Acupuncture is used to treat psychological illnesses as well as physical ailments such as pain, anxiety and depression. Acupuncture is proven to significantly reduce pain severity in patients with persistent cancer pain.
51. Lader, M., & Bruce, M. (1986)	N/A	N/A
52. Junghans, K.	Traditional Acupuncture	Acupuncture has been shown in studies to be more beneficial than medication and equivalent to talking therapy, making it a good referral option for mental health patients.
53. Watson, K. (2018)	Traditional Acupuncture	Several studies on the results of acupuncture on anxiety have been conducted. These research have largely been solely on generalized anxiety disorder, and they show that acupuncture can help cure it.

## 6. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, the United States had the figure of 40 million number of anxiety cases which is defined as excessive, uncontrollable worrying that frequently interferes with daily functioning. Psychotherapy, medicines, or a mix of the two are routinely used to treat this disorder. Acupuncture, an ancient procedure involving the insertion of needles into the body's pressure points, is gaining popularity as a substitute anxiety regimen. There is empirical proof that acupuncture can alleviate some anxiety symptoms. Consequences of acupuncture for particular types of anxiety, such as panic attacks, post-traumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder, are still under investigation. In spite of the ethical and methodological obstacles involved in comparing the efficacy of acupuncture to conventional anxiety treatment, the best current data indicates that acupuncture offers average advantage in the management of anxiety. Researchers have demonstrated that acupuncture is more beneficial compared to medication and equivalent to talk therapy, being an excellent alternative for referral. In addition, a number of well-known physiological and biophysical factors may explain how this ancient modality operates, as revealed by research.

#### **Conflict of interest:**

The authors have no conflict of interest.

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