

# Implementation of Nursing Research at the Bedside

## Use of Acupressure for Prevention of Post-Operative Nausea & Vomiting in High-Risk Surgical Patients

Debra Hofmann, DNP, APNP, RN, ACNS-BC  
Primary Investigator

# Facts

- 79 Million surgeries in US annually
- 60% occur in ambulatory day surgery setting
- Females comprised higher visit rates 132 per 1000
- Males 100 per 1000 population

## Prevalence & Risk for PONV

- Overall range 25-30%
- High Risk Patients: 70-80%
- Outpatient range: 20-80% depending on population
- 35-67% may experience PONV
- PONV may persist for 5 days postoperative

# PONV: #1 Patient Problem

Postoperative Outcomes Least Preferred by Patients

Rank	Postoperative Outcomes Least Preferred by Patients
1	Vomiting
2	Gagging on endotracheal tube
3	Incisional pain
4	Nausea
5	Recall without pain
6	Residual weakness
7	Shivering
8	Sore throat
9	Somnolence

# Potential Consequences of PONV

- Electrolyte imbalance & dehydration
- Tension on suture line
- Dehiscence
- Venous hypertension
- Risk of aspiration
- Hematomas
- Delayed discharge
- Unanticipated hospital admission



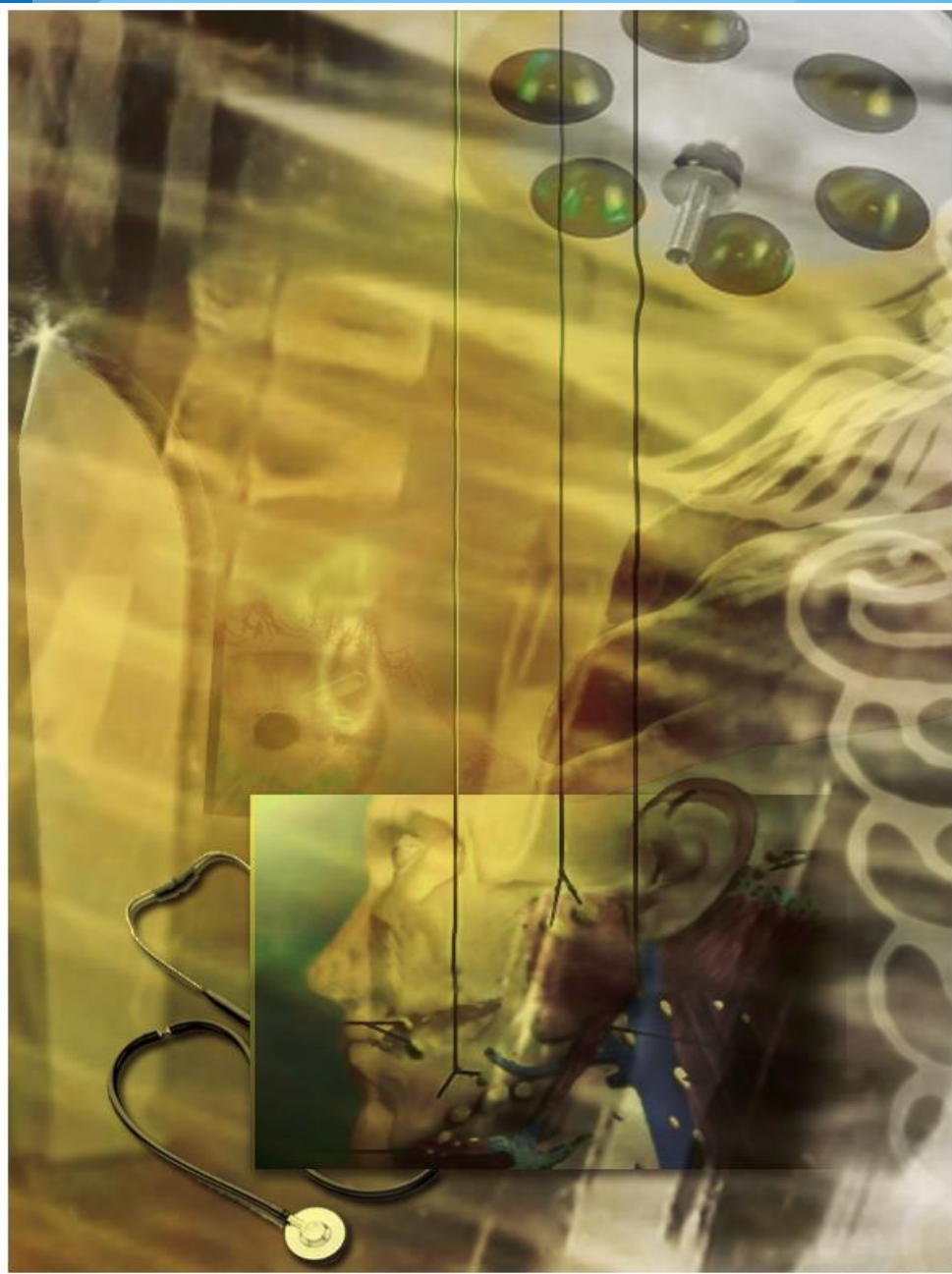
# PONV Cost

- Leading cause of unanticipated hospital admissions  
Of these admissions 24% PONV primary reason
- Costs estimate = 1.2 billion dollars annually
- Single episode of nausea costs average \$82
- Single episode of emesis costs average \$305
- PONV is major factor limiting early discharge
- PACU personnel costs are biggest component!  
NOT pharmaceuticals



# The Study

## Literature Review

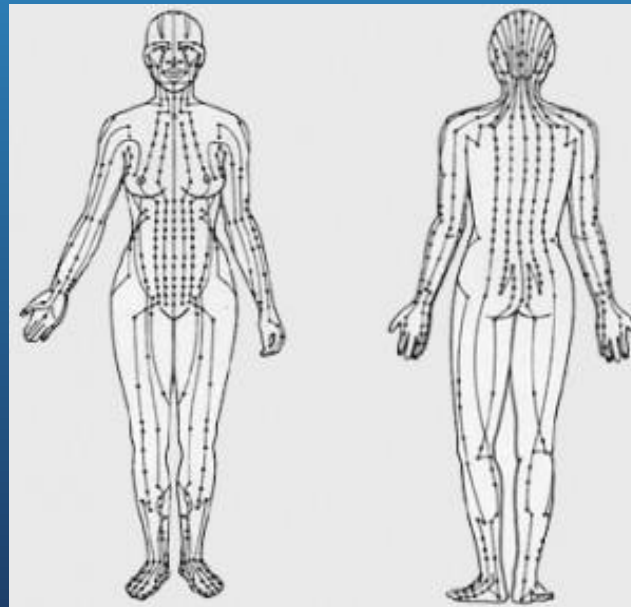


# Literature Search Results

- Level of Evidence Strength I Grade A
- 3 meta-analysis Cochrane review
- 10 Randomized Blinded Control Studies
  
- All significant for use of acupressure
- Most population specific: Gyn,lap chole
- NONE high-risk PONV ambulatory surgical patients
- NO nursing research conducted

# Acupressure Efficacy

- Meridian theory based on Chinese Medicine
- Noninvasive approach preventing PONV comparable antiemetic efficacy to more invasive treatments e.g. acupuncture or medications
- Fewer side effects
- Lower cost
- Easy to administer
- No infection risk
- Minor risk of skin irritation, metal allergy





## Research Questions:

1. Does preoperative placement of acupressure beads at P6 affect the incidence and severity of PONV immediately post surgery (Phase I) in high-risk ambulatory surgical patients, compared to usual care of preventative and rescue anti-emetics?
2. Does preoperative placement of acupressure beads at P6 worn for 24 hours after surgery affect the incidence of PONV at postoperative phases II, and III in high-risk ambulatory surgical patients, compared to usual care of preventative and rescue anti-emetics?

# Study Design

- Experimental
- Randomized
- Controlled
- Blinded

Intervention Acupressure Bead Patch  
Control Bandaid Sham Patch

IRB approved  
All patients fully consented

# Inclusion Criteria

Based on ASPAN Guidelines for at Risk PONV/PDND

- Female
- Previous history nausea and vomiting or motion sickness
- Non-smokers
- General anesthesia
- Same day surgery
- No nausea/vomiting in past 24 hours

Each risk factor increases 10% chance of PONV

Patient with 4 risk factor has an 80% increase in incidence

## Exclusion

- Minors
- Vulnerable populations
- Non-English speaking
- Surgery involving upper extremity e.g. AV fistula, mastectomy, restricted use

## Location



P6 Neiguan is 3 finger widths from transverse crease of wrist between palmaris longus & flexor carpi radialis tendons

# Methods

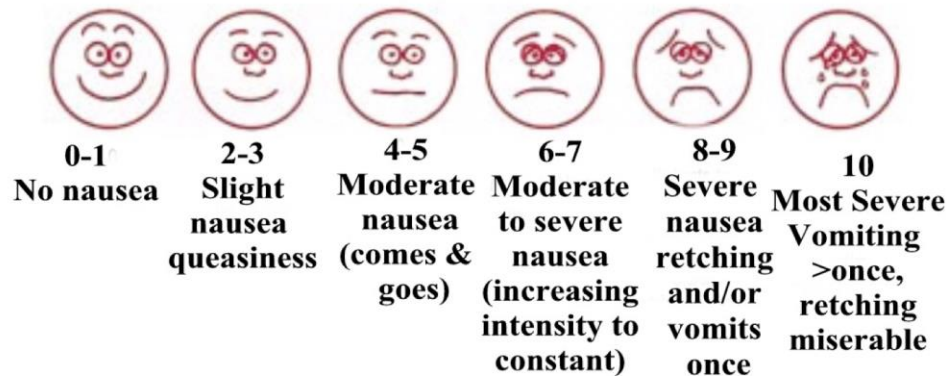
- Elective ambulatory surgical patients included in randomized, placebo-controlled & blinded study
- Pre-study randomization table used in setting up charts labeled 1-110 with either acupressure patch or sham patch - blinded to patient, family, intraop, anesthesia providers & postop RN's collecting data PONV scores
- One group received unilateral P6 acupressure patch placed preoperatively (N=57)
- One group received unilateral sham patch placed preoperatively (N=53)
- Nausea & vomiting (scale 0-10) with the treatment were recorded in Phase I, II and III
- Patients recruited by Pre Anesthesia Resource Nurses
- Consented in DSP- Bead or sham band aid applied
- Data collected by PACU, DSP nurses Phase I & II with Phase III per Primary Researcher

# Instrument

## Patients Rated PONV in Phase I, II and III

### Nausea & Vomiting Visual Analog Scale

(Adapted from Wong-Baker  
FACES Pain Rating Scale, 2005)



From Hockenberry MJ,  
Wilson D, Winkelstein ML:  
Wong's Essentials of Pediatric Nursing, ed. 7,  
St. Louis, 2005, p. 1259.  
Used with permission.  
Copyright, Mosby.



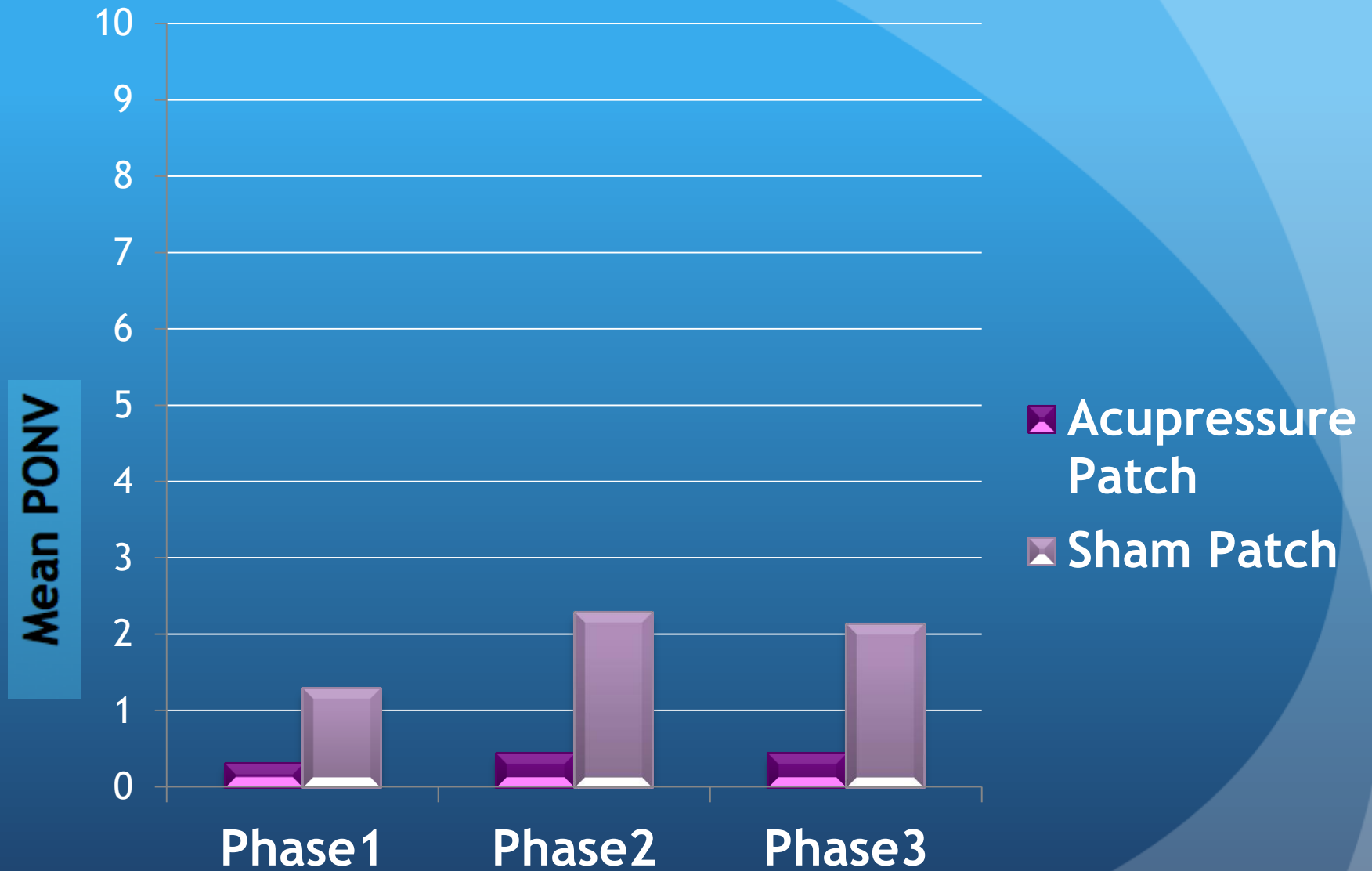
Results

# Demographics & Sample

- Coming for elective outpatient surgery
- 110 participants
- 105 women (95.4%)
- 5 men (4.6%)
- Mean age 46.6 years (SD=14.0)
- Range 18 to 89 years
- 93 completed study (all 3 phases)
- 13 admitted to hospital from PACU
- 4 cases dropped out or didn't meet
- Surgeries wide range: including lap chole, gyn, EENT, appendectomy,



# Results



# One-Way ANOVA

ANOVA						
		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
phase1_1	Between Groups	22.142	1	22.142	6.594	.012
	Within Groups	305.557	91	3.358		
	Total	327.699	92			
phase2_1	Between Groups	79.610	1	79.610	18.338	.000
	Within Groups	395.057	91	4.341		
	Total	474.667	92			
phase3_1	Between Groups	66.794	1	66.794	9.113	.003
	Within Groups	667.012	91	7.330		
	Total	733.806	92			

# Discussion -Limitations

- Focus only on high-risk PONV/PD NV patient population
- Not generalizable to general population
- Visual Analog Scale (VAS) not tested for reliability
- More females than male
- One hospital in Midwestern state - lack of diversity

# Recommendations

- Conduct using other acupressure points
- Implement acupressure project in Spring 2013
- Current national drug shortage beckons alternatives
- Implement PONV risk factor assessment as routine
- Nurses should be utilizing acupressure as CAM intervention

# Implementation of Research

- Policy
- Education in Practice Change
- Electronic Medical Record
- Assessment
- Use
- Evaluation of Effectiveness for Patients

# Next Step Research

- 1) Develop a cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) outcome evaluation study of the use of acupressure to prevent post-operative nausea and vomiting.
- 2) Conduct secondary qualitative analysis with interviews of perioperative nurses about their experience in utilization of acupressure for PONV.

# Research question(s)

- 1) Does the use of acupressure for PONV in surgical patients provide a cost benefit?
- 2) What is nursing experience in using acupressure as intervention for PONV?

Questions ???



References available by request