

69014-Answering Reviewers

Reviewer #1: 1. Quite an interesting article that explains one of the side effects of the inactivated Covid-19 vaccine. 2. Can the author explain why the patient received acupuncture therapy for Bell's palsy? What is the effect of acupuncture on the patient? 3. Can the author show a clinical picture of patient who have improved after Bell's palsy therapy. 4. Can the author explain the etiology of Bell's palsy in patients after the Covid-19 vaccine? Is the pathogenesis the same as other causes of Bell's palsy? 5. It is better if the author can mention how many patients have Bell's palsy due to the Covid-19 vaccine from the three forms of the covid-19 vaccine. Please also explain the outcome of these patients

2. Can the author explain why the patient received acupuncture therapy for Bell's palsy?

What is the effect of acupuncture on the patient?

Recent research has revealed that acupuncture can slow down the progression of neurological diseases^{1,2}. In China, acupuncture has been found to improve the prognosis of BP patients at the recovery stage³⁻⁶. Besides, acupuncture is strongly recommended for BP patients at the recovery stage by the Evidence-based Guidelines of Clinical Practice in Chinese Medicine- Acupuncture, supported by World Health Organization Western Pacific funded project⁷.

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3. Can the author show a clinical picture of patient who have improved after Bell's palsy therapy.

Up to July 10, 2021, the patient's symptoms of facial expression and eye were significantly improved. H-B grade descended to Grade I.



Figure 1 The facial expression of right side was recovered.

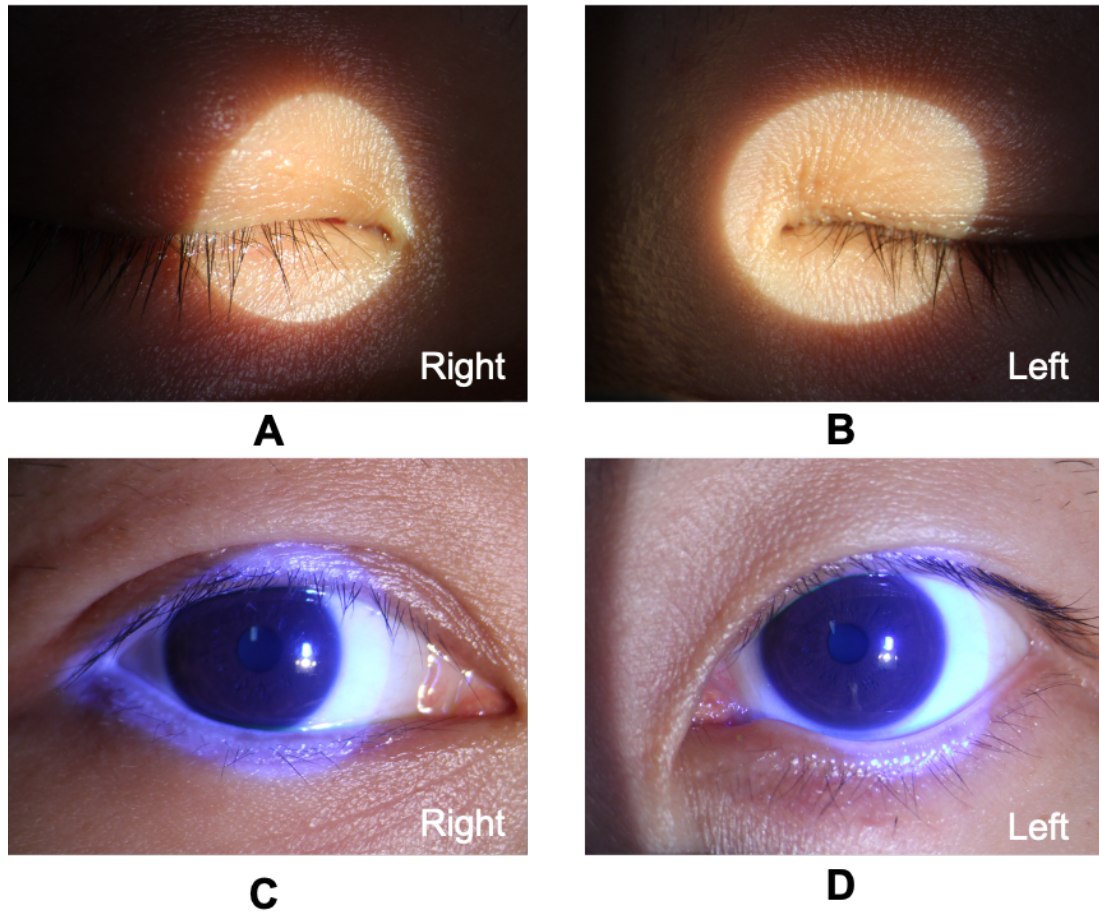


Figure 2 Slit lamp inspection displayed that the right eyelid could close completely (A); conjunctival and scleral vessels were not congested. Central corneal epithelium of both eyes was recovered (C, D).

4. Can the author explain the etiology of Bell's palsy in patients after the Covid-19 vaccine? Is the pathogenesis the same as other causes of Bell's palsy?

The etiology of Bell's palsy is still unclear. It suggests that the diagnosis of Bell's palsy is based on exclusion and is most often made based on five factors including anatomical structure, viral infection, ischemia, inflammation, and cold stimulation responsivity. In our case, from the positive result of IgM and IgG-specific antibodies to SARS-CoV-2 whole-virion and keratoconjunctivitis of both eyes after first dose of vaccine, we assumed that her humoral immune system was intensively activated, causing local inflammation on facial nerve and cornea.

5. It is better if the author can mention how many patients have Bell's palsy due to the Covid-19 vaccine from the three forms of the covid-19 vaccine. Please also explain the outcome of these patients.

So far, there is no research mentioning about Bell's palsy after taking inactivated COVID-19 vaccine¹⁻³ or recombinant COVID-19 vaccine^{4, 5}. But it is reported that Bell's palsy could occur after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination^{6, 7}. Specifically, of the 73799 volunteers (36901 effectively receiving at least one vaccine dose) taking part in the two large phase 3 vaccine trials,^{8, 9} eight cases of suspect Bell's palsy were reported, with a total of seven in the groups receiving a vaccine and one in placebo groups. And no outcome of these Bell's palsy patients was reported.

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