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A study on the clinical effect and immunological mechanism in the treatment of Hashimoto's thyroiditis by moxibustion.

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Abstract

71 cases of Hashimoto's thyroiditis were treated by moxibustion and their immune function and thyroid function were observed. It was found that moxibustion was able to reduce the thyroid antibodies in the peripheral blood of the patients with hypothyroidism and to recover their thyroid function. It was also found that moxibustion could lower the thyroid antibody secretory levels and ADCC (antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity) activities of the lymphocytes. In addition, the action of moxibustion in reducing the secretion of thyroid antibodies was related to its action of regulating the proportions of T lymphocyte subsets. The results indicate that the treatment of Hashimoto's thyroiditis by moxibustion is probably accomplished through its effect in regulating the relationship among the T lymphocyte subsets.

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