Modulation of involuntary movements in cerebral palsy with acupuncture

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This case describes the treatment of severe involuntary movements in a 10-year-old boy suffering from cerebral palsy. Needling GB34 and ST36 bilaterally for 25 minutes resulted in immediate temporary cessation of involuntary extension contractions of the erector spinae muscles for the duration of the treatment, resulting in increased functionality in the patient. This response occurred regularly on repeated treatment, but was not maintained between treatments. Involuntary movements are a major disabling feature of cerebral palsy, which impair quality of life and often prove difficult to treat successfully. This case is reported with the hope that this simple technique may provide relief for other patients suffering similar symptoms.

Acupunct Med. 2009 Jun;27(2):76-8. Watson P. University of Bristol, Bristol, UK; Paul.Watson@doctors.org.uk.