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Health informatics — Categorial structures for representation of acupuncture

Part 6: Acupuncture effect

bsi.

National foreword

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Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*, in collaboration with Technical Committee ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 16843 series can be found on the ISO website.

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Introduction

Acupuncture therapy is being widely practiced in many countries. Acupuncture therapy is used to treat many diseases by regulating the physiological functions of the internal organs (zang-fu) and body systems. Stimulating the acupoints with an acupuncture needle or with electro acupuncture can directly or indirectly cause changes in organs, tissues, cells, molecules and other chemical substances, then affects physiological or pathological functions in human body or experimental animals. The effects of acupuncture can be measured by laboratory tests or clinical observations.

A large number of clinical research studies and animal experiments have been conducted to assess the mechanism of acupuncture therapy. However, the descriptions of acupuncture effects in clinical reports or experimental reports tend to be insufficient or inconsistent for interpretation of heterogeneity, thus causing difficulties in synthesizing data for analysis. This arises from two reasons:

a) An appropriate categorial structure for the acupuncture effect has not been formulated;

b) Semantic associations between the concepts of the acupuncture effect need to be made more explicit.

This document aims at solving these existing problems.

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1 Scope

This document specifies the categorial structure within the field of acupuncture effects by defining a set of domain constraints of sanctioned characteristics, each consisting of a semantic link and an applicable characterizing category.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1 General

3.1.1
concept
unit of knowledge created by a unique combination of characteristics

Note 1 to entry: A concept can have one or more names. It can be represented using one or more terms, pictures, icons or sounds.

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 16843-2:2015, 3.1]

3.1.2
categorial structure
minimal set of domain constraints for representing concept systems in a subject field

[SOURCE: ISO 17115:2020, 3.1.1, modified]

3.1.3
category
division of sets of entities regarded as having particular shared characteristics

EXAMPLE Oral route, subcutaneous route and all other routes share characteristics particular to the category route.

Note 1 to entry: Categories can be more or less general. Where one category is subsumed by another, the ‘is a’ relation is asserted to obtain a hierarchy between the more specific or subsumed category and the more general or subsuming category. For example, parenteral route is more general than intravenous route.

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