

Results of the survey

1. Background

In order to promote the development of acupuncture-moxibustion standardization, to achieve the purpose of promoting acupuncture-moxibustion level and improving the quality of service, the Standard Working Committee of WFAS once sent out the demand questionnaire of WFAS standard project to all members in 2018. Over the past three years, WFAS has initiated some standardization projects. Based on the previous questionnaire, we screened the concentrated requirements in the 2018 questionnaire and formulated the new one to further understand the demands and urgency of WFAS standards in different countries.

2. Objective

Aiming to estimate the demand and urgency of acupuncture standards of WFAS .

3. Methods

3.1 Participants

25 members of SC-WFAS are participated in the survey.

3.2 Research Methods

We designed an application research and data were collected by questionnaire.

3.3 Research content

We adopted a self-filling questionnaire with closed questions, which included 7 aspects:

- Necessity survey of the Guidelines on Clinical Practice of Acupuncture and Moxibustion: including

(1) Necessity of *Norms for Formulation and Evaluation of the Guidelines on Clinical Practice of Acupuncture and Moxibustion*; and (2) Diseases that should be given priority to develop the Guidelines.

- Technique specification of acupuncture-moxibustion:

(1) Necessity survey of *Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion: General rules for drafting*; and (2) Priority survey of technique specification of acupuncture and moxibustion;

- Education of acupuncture-moxibustion:

Importance survey of training courses, category of educational programs, content of educational program, and procedure of accreditation;

- Terminology of acupuncture-moxibustion:

(1) *Broad and narrow sense of acupuncture-moxibustion science*; and (2) Importance survey of *classification of acupuncture-moxibustion informatics*;

- Specification on management of acupuncture-moxibustion treatment:

Priority survey of *specification on clinical service of acupuncture-moxibustion*, and *specification on clinical setting of acupuncture and moxibustion*.

- Specification on clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion:

Importance survey of (1) *Specification on the case report of acupuncture-moxibustion*; (2) *Specification on the clinical management of acupuncture-moxibustion*; and (3) *Management specification on case registration of acupuncture-moxibustion*;

- Suggestions on the standardization of acupuncture and moxibustion.

3.4 Statistical analysis method

SPSS23.0 is used for data analysis, and EXCEL for making figures.

4. Results

4.1 Data integrity

The data sets were analyzed for valid questionnaires after eliminating duplicates and deleting non-SC-WFAS member. In total 25 English questionnaires were issued, and 24 were returned with 21 valid. (The invalid questionnaires of 3 duplicates and non-SC-WFAS member were excluded.)

4.2 Guideline for clinical practice of acupuncture-moxibustion

The 21 valid questionnaires all agreed that it is very important to develop *Norms of formulation and evaluation on the guideline for clinical practices of acupuncture-moxibustion*.

Of the 21 valid questionnaires, 19 selected depression and chronic low back pain, and 18 selected migraine and knee osteoarthritis for developing CPG. The selection of other disorders is shown in **Figure 1**.

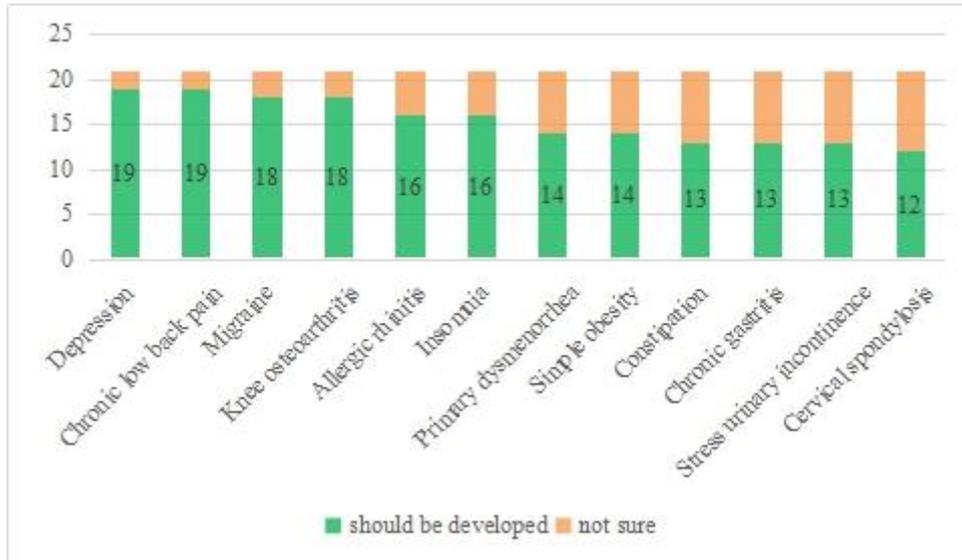


Figure 1. Frequency distribution of disorders should be developed for CPG

4.3 Technique specification of acupuncture-moxibustion

In these 21 questionnaires, 19 (90.5%) considered it important to compile *Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion: General rules for drafting*.

The distribution of selection more than 50% questionnaire can be seen in **Figure 2**. The distribution of section less than 50% questionnaire is presented in **Table 1**.

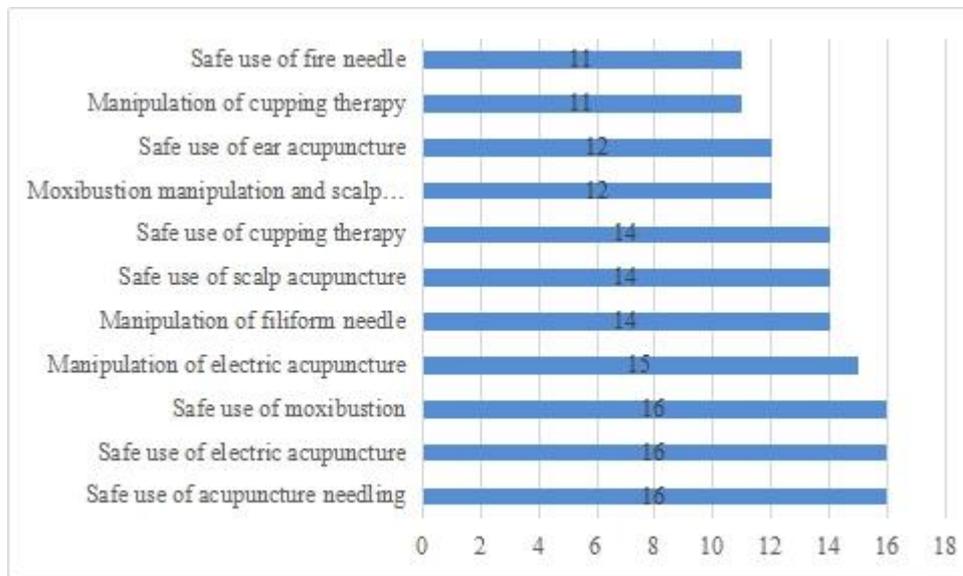


Figure 2. Frequency distribution of choosing technical specifications or safe use specifications of acupuncture-moxibustion

Table 1. Frequency of choosing technical specifications or safe use specifications of acupuncture-moxibustion

Technical specifications	Frequency
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<i>Manipulation of ear acupuncture</i>	10
<i>Safe use of scraping therapy</i>	10
<i>Safe use of point injection</i>	10
<i>Manipulation of fire needle</i>	10
<i>Manipulation of point injection</i>	9
<i>Safe use of eye acupuncture</i>	8
<i>Manipulation of scraping therapy (GuaSha)</i>	8
<i>Manipulation of eye acupuncture</i>	7
<i>Manipulation of abdominal acupuncture</i>	6
<i>Safe use of abdominal acupuncture</i>	6

4.4 Education of acupuncture-moxibustion

Content of educational program is the priority aspect of acupuncture education with the largest number of respondents. The distribution of the number of selectors is shown in **Figure 3**.

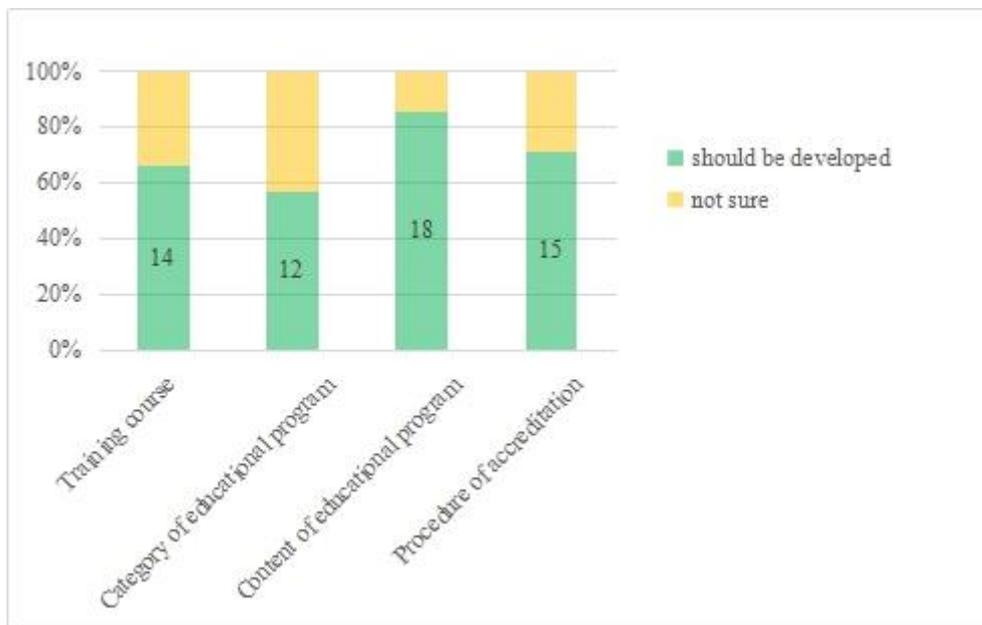


Figure 3. Frequency distribution diagram of aspects in educational standards of acupuncture-moxibustion should be developed in priority

4.5 Standards on the terminology of acupuncture-moxibustion therapy

Table 2. Frequency distribution table of aspects should be developed in priority of terminology standards

Aspects should be developed in priority of terminology standards	Frequency
Broad and narrow sense of acupuncture-moxibustion science	15
Classification of acupuncture-moxibustion informatics	17

4.6 Specification on management of acupuncture-moxibustion therapy

Table 3. Frequency distribution table of aspects should be developed in priority of management specification

Aspects should be developed in priority of management specification	Frequency
<i>Specification on acupuncture-moxibustion clinical service</i>	15
<i>Specification on acupuncture-moxibustion clinical setting</i>	19

4.7 Specification on clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion

Table 4. Frequency distribution table of the standards that should be developed in priority for clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion

The standards that should be developed in priority for clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion	Frequency
<i>Specification on the case report form of acupuncture-moxibustion therapy</i>	16
<i>Specification on clinical research management of acupuncture-moxibustion</i>	15
<i>Management specification on case registration of acupuncture-moxibustion</i>	14

4.8 Willingness to participate in research

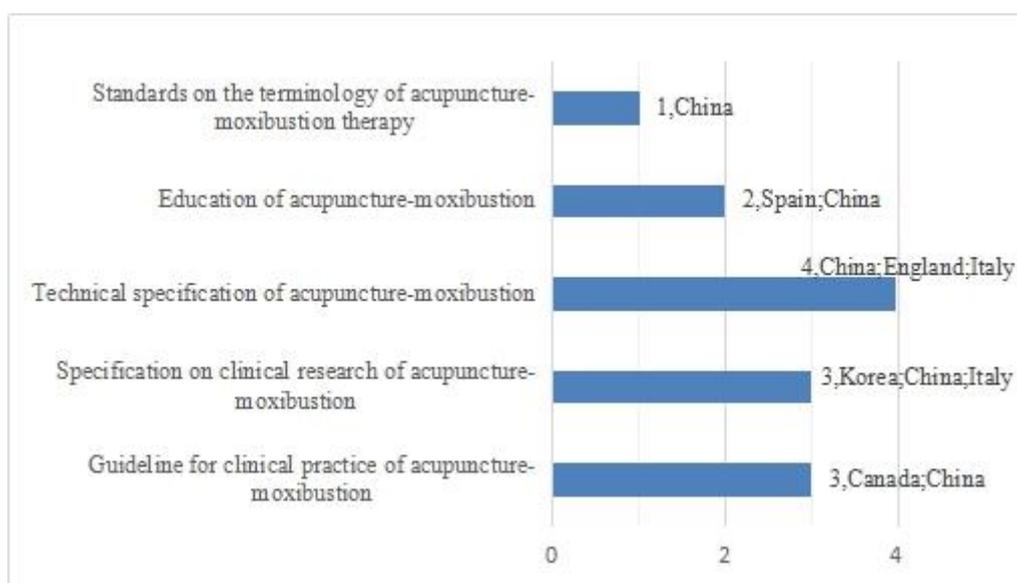


Figure 4. Distribution diagram of willingness to participate in research

5. Summary

According to the survey results, the secretariat of SC-WFAS made the following summary:

(1) There is a high demand for WFAS's Acupuncture Standards in various countries. The standard demand range covers acupuncture clinical practice guidelines, technical specifications, clinical research services standards, treatment, management norms, multiple directions and fields such as education, terminology standard.

(2) The committee members agreed that the two types of WFAS standards should be developed in priority: *Norms for Formulation and Evaluation of the Guidelines on Clinical Practice of Acupuncture and Moxibustion*, and *Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion: General rules for drafting*.

(3) More than 50% of the members considered that the development of clinical practice guidelines for all diseases mentioned in the questionnaire should be given priority. Compared with the techniques of acupuncture and moxibustion, such as auricular acupuncture, scrapping, acupoint injection and fire needling, the committee members paid more attention to the technical operation or safe use of filiform needle, electroacupuncture, moxibustion, scalp acupuncture and cupping. The sorting of optimization rates of various standards is shown in **Table 5**.

(4) This questionnaire does not involve the members' decision on the priority of developing guidelines and acupuncture techniques. In addition, there are still four members did not respond to the questionnaire, whose opinions may have an impact on the proportion of the survey results.

Table 5. List of potential acupuncture standards of WFAS

Fields of standard	Standard name	Optimization rates
Guideline for clinical practice of acupuncture-moxibustion	<i>Norms of formulation and evaluation on the guideline for clinical practices of acupuncture-moxibustion</i>	100%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Depression</i>	90.5%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Chronic low back pain</i>	90.5%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Migraine</i>	85.7%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Knee osteoarthritis</i>	85.7%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Allergic rhinitis</i>	76.2%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Insomnia</i>	76.2%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Primary dysmenorrhea</i>	66.7%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Simple obesity</i>	66.7%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Constipation</i>	61.9%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Chronic gastritis</i>	61.9%
	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Stress urinary incontinence</i>	61.9%

	<i>WFAS Guideline for Clinical Practice of Acupuncture-moxibustion: Cervical spondylosis</i>	57.1%
Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion	<i>Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion: General rules for drafting</i>	90.5%
	<i>Safe use of acupuncture needling</i>	76.2%
	<i>Safe use of electric acupuncture</i>	76.2%
	<i>Safe use of moxibustion</i>	76.2%
	<i>Manipulation of electric acupuncture</i>	71.4%
	<i>Manipulation of filiform needle</i>	66.7%
	<i>Safe use of scalp acupuncture</i>	66.7%
	<i>Safe use of cupping therapy</i>	66.7%
	<i>Moxibustion manipulation and scalp acupuncture manipulation,</i>	57.1%
	<i>Safe use of ear acupuncture</i>	57.1%
	<i>Manipulation of cupping therapy</i>	52.4%
	<i>Safe use of fire needle</i>	52.4%
Specification on clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion	<i>Specification on the case report form of acupuncture-moxibustion therapy</i>	76.2%
	<i>Specification on clinical research management of acupuncture-moxibustion</i>	71.4%
	<i>Management specification on case registration of acupuncture-moxibustion</i>	66.7%
Specification on management of acupuncture-moxibustion therapy	<i>Specification on acupuncture-moxibustion clinical setting</i>	90.5%
	<i>Specification on acupuncture-moxibustion clinical service</i>	71.4%
Education of acupuncture-moxibustion	Content of educational program	85.7%
Standards on the terminology of	Classification of acupuncture-moxibustion informatics	81.0%

acupuncture-moxibustion therapy	Broad and narrow sense of acupuncture-moxibustion science	of 71.4%
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6.Suggestions

According to the survey results and the ongoing acupuncture-moxibustion standardization work conducted by WHO and ISO/TC249, SC-WFAS suggested that,

(1) Priority be given to the formulation of three fields in WFAS standards: Clinical practice guidelines for acupuncture-moxibustion, Technical specification of acupuncture-moxibustion, and Specification on clinical research of acupuncture-moxibustion;

(2) SC-WFAS secretariat is intended to launch the development of standards in the areas with the common interests of members and countries recently.

(3) All SC-WFAS members be expected to take an active part in the formulation of acupuncture standards of WFAS. Based on the international development of acupuncture and moxibustion, and the clinical practice in your country, put forward suggestions on the formulation of acupuncture standards in the areas that are considered to be in priority.