
**Traditional Chinese medicine —
Sterile intradermal acupuncture
needles for single use**

*Médecine traditionnelle chinoise — Aiguilles d'acupuncture
intradermiques stériles à usage unique*

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 249, *Traditional Chinese medicine*.

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Introduction

As one of several different needling approaches, intradermal acupuncture needles are recognized as an effective treatment for various disorders. Intradermal acupuncture needles are easy to use and especially effective when relatively long-lasting stimulation to a needling site is needed. Therefore, safety and sanitation considerations of intradermal acupuncture needles should be more carefully reviewed as well as their compatibility to human body.

As a biomaterial, acupuncture needles can be corrosive and have potential to lose some of their mechanical characteristics. Furthermore, leachable substances can affect human tissue in any unintended, yet potentially harmful way. To address this problem, biomaterials should have no toxicity or produce any adverse effects, and should have appropriate mechanical characteristics such as tensile strength, elasticity, durability of abrasion and fatigue strength. In addition, the material should have a strong corrosion resistant ability.

This International Standard establishes an international standard for intradermal acupuncture needles. The characteristics of intradermal acupuncture needles include size, material, quality, tests, packing and identification through regulating marking methods. The standardization of the characteristics of intradermal acupuncture needles has potential to enhance the efficacy and improve the quality and safety of acupuncture treatments using intradermal acupuncture needles especially in regard to the biocompatibility for human body.

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