
**Health informatics — Categorical
structures for representation of
acupuncture —**

**Part 2:
Needling**

*Informatique de santé — Structures catégoriques pour la
représentation de l'acupuncture —*

Partie 2: Puncture

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 215, *Health informatics*.

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Introduction

In this Technical Specification, acupuncture is a branch of traditional Chinese medicine which mainly involves the theory of meridians, location, usage, indications and combinations of acupoints, needling manipulations and application of ignited moxa in the treatment of disease through regulation of qi, blood and visceral functions.

Acupuncture therapy is widely practiced as a part of complementary and alternative medicine throughout East Asia and also in western countries.

A guideline for reporting acupuncture interventions in clinical trials is already available, and a large number of clinical trials have been conducted to assess efficacy and efficiency of acupuncture therapy. However, the descriptions of acupuncture interventions in clinical reports tend to be insufficient for interpretation of heterogeneity among trials, often causing difficulties for data synthesis in meta-analyses. This arises for three reasons: firstly because an appropriate information structure of acupuncture needling is not used, secondly because certain concepts within traditional medicine practice in the western pacific-rim region originated in China and are frequently not sufficiently considered, and thirdly because semantic associations between concepts of acupuncture needling need to be explicitly identified.

This Technical Specification defines the categorial structures within the subject field of acupuncture needling in order to address these problems.

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