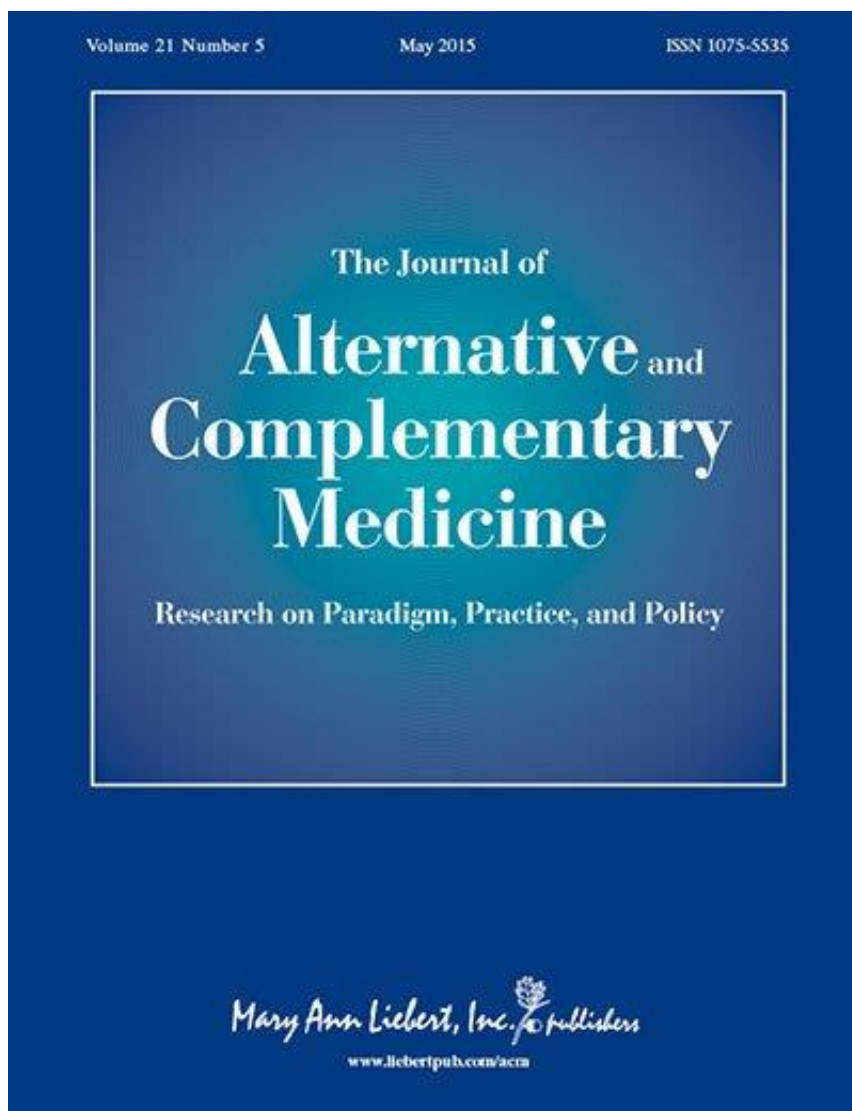


# New study on acupuncture to reduce pain and inflammation in children with acute appendicitis

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Credit: Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers

Acupuncture was shown to lessen pain and reduce the underlying inflammation in pediatric patients with a diagnosis of acute appendicitis, according to a study published in the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*.

Alan L. Nager, MD, MHA and coauthors from Children's Hospital Los Angeles and the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California assessed subjective pain among [pediatric patients](#) immediately before and 20 minutes after treatment by a licensed acupuncturist. The researchers also measured two biomarkers of inflammation in blood samples taken before, during, and 30 minutes after needle placement.

In the article "[Effects of Acupuncture on Pain and Inflammation in Pediatric Emergency Department Patients with Acute Appendicitis: A Pilot Study](#)," the authors report that the patients' subjective pain decreased, likely due to the acupuncture treatment. Furthermore, one of the inflammatory biomarkers (white blood cell count) "showed a modest and noticeable drop," suggesting "that the effectiveness of acupuncture may have a biophysiological basis."

**More information:** The article is available free on the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* website until June 12, 2015.

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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