

**SECTION A**

**ACUPUNCTURE AS A SUPPLEMENT TO THE LOCAL  
ANAESTHETIC AGENT**

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Minilaparotomy was performed using acupuncture analgesia on 78 female patients seeking voluntary sterilisation to determine whether this could be used as a substitute for neuroleptanalgesia. It was found that 48 women (62%) required no IV drug medication and that sterilisation could be successfully performed using only the local anaesthetic and acupuncture electrostimulation. Apart from the ability of these women to return to their homes one hour after operation there was a cost saving of nearly Rs. 40/- per patient sterilised. For a developing country with a shortage of trained anaesthetists, acupuncture analgesia could prove to be a simple, safe and economical method especially in a rural setting.