School of Science and Health

HDR Projects 2014

TITLE OF PROJECT: The role of moxibustion in pregnancy

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CAMPUS/S PROJECT IS OFFERED AND CONDUCTED: Campbelltown

BACKGROUND Babies born in a breech presentation (non-cephalic or bottom down) have an increased risk of birth complications. Over 80% of women with a breech presentation are delivered by caesarean section (C/S). This may result in potential complications including deep-vein thrombosis, puerperal infection, postpartum haemorrhage, and increased health service and societal costs. Recent policy directives and clinical guidelines emphasise the importance of increasing the number of women giving birth vaginally. ECV is used to try and turn a breech fetus to the cephalic position by manually rotating the fetus around the mother’s abdomen. However, ECV is unsuccessful in 40% of attempts. Moxibustion (moxa) is a modality of Chinese medicine, which has gained popularity in Western cultures for management of a variety of conditions including breech presentation. Clinical evidence suggest that moxa may reduce non-cephalic presentation at birth. This study will conduct a clinical trial to evaluate the effect of moxa on non-cephalic presentation and to monitor the safety of this treatment, and interview women to explore their experiences of a breech diagnosis, their care, and experience of moxa.

AIM OF STUDY: To examine the role of moxibustion for promoting cephalic version

METHODS: randomised controlled trial and interviews with women.

ETHICS APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: N/A Yes

KEY REFERENCES: