1 Introduction

In recent years, several international standardized traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) nomenclatures have been published, including the major ones A Proposed Standard International Acupuncture Nomenclature by World Health Organization (WHO) in 1991[1], International Standard Terminologies on Traditional Medicine in the Western Pacific Region[2] by WHO in the Western Pacific Region (WPRO) in 2007 and International Standard Chinese-English Basic Nomenclature of Chinese Medicine[3] by the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) in 2007. However, an English translation of points applied in infant Tuina therapy is neither contained in any of these standardized nomenclatures, nor in major Chinese-English dictionaries of Chinese medicine[4–6]. Infant Tuina is an effective and common therapy used in the pediatric department of Chinese medicine. As the points used in infant Tuina therapy are different from the points used in standard acupuncture, and are essential to practice, the authors believe it is important to make an English translation of infant Tuina points and explore the principles and protocol of their translation.

2 The necessity of including English of infant Tuina points

There are three aspects that entail the inclusion of English translation of infant Tuina points in the international standardized TCM nomenclatures and dictionaries.

First, reviewing several major international standardized TCM nomenclatures[4–6], the authors found that although the general inclusion of Chinese medicine in these references was complete, there was no information on infant Tuina points. As a result, practitioners may not be aware of infant Tuina points or may underestimate the importance of infant Tuina. Therefore, it is necessary to pay some attention to this nearly lost field.

Second, although acupuncture points already have a standardized English translation, the infant Tuina points fall into another category; while all the main standard acupuncture points are located along the channels, the infant tuina points are not necessarily located along channels. Among all the commonly used infant Tuina points, only a few of them are located at the same place as acupuncture points. Moreover, some infant Tuina points share names...
with acupuncture points but have different locations and indications. The majority of these points are either lines, arches, joint points, or extra points that are not on the channels. Since the infant Tuina points are uniquely different from the acupuncture points, their terms in English should be expressed in other ways.

Third, infant Tuina points are mainly used during the application of infant Tuina, a therapy that has long been in existence and is still used to treat a wide variety of infantile conditions. Many classics of TCM have records of infant Tuina, such as the General Treatise on the Causes and Manifestations of Various Diseases (Zhubing Yuanhou Lun), The Causes and Treatises on Different Syndromes and Symptoms (Zhubing Yuanhou Lun), and Valuable Prescriptions for Emergency (Beiji Qianjin Yaofang). There are also classics that deal exclusively with infant Tuina, such as the Magic Tuina Classic of Infant Care (Baoyinger Shenshu Anmoying), and Secrets of Infant Tuina (Xiaoer Tuina Mijue). In contemporary practice, infant Tuina is an indispensable part of Tuina courses in most Chinese colleges of Chinese medicine. As a non-medicinal and painless natural therapy that is simple, convenient, effective, and cheap, it is familiar and widely accepted by many people, and is a treatment modality that is offered in the most Chinese medicine pediatric departments in the major cities of China. Judging from its long history and wide application in modern times, having accurate English translation of infant Tuina points seems essential.

3 Translation principles

In the course of formulating international standard terminologies on Chinese medicine, both the WPRO and the WFCMS held many conferences to discuss the translation principles for Chinese medicine. In the WPRO standard, the translation principles are accurate reflections of the original concept of Chinese terms, with no creation of new English words, avoidance of pinyin (Romanized Chinese) and consistency with WHO’s Standard Acupuncture Nomenclature. Among these principles, the authors of this paper do not agree with “avoidance of pinyin” for two reasons: many terms have complex meaning and bear layers of symbolism involving Chinese language and culture; also, when we use terms involving medicinals, formulas, acupuncture points or classic books in clinical practice, it is very common to directly apply Chinese pinyin. Using pinyin can sometimes help to clear up misunderstandings when faced with different English versions of a TCM term. Hence, in the WFCMS standard, the principles of translation are to be equivalent, concise, and identity; and English terms should be applicable in popular usage, without mentioning avoidance of pinyin.

For the infant Tuina points, since they are not distributed along channels like most acupuncture points, it is impossible to use the number code of a channel to name most of them (except in some cases that share the same name and indications as adult points, for which they can share the same number code). Second, in order to retain the identity and reduce ambiguity, the present authors think that Chinese pinyin must be included and Chinese characters should remain as the last component. Third, clear and concise English translation is required to reflect the original concept. All of this will help to bring the principle of equivalence to a proper translation.

4 Protocol of the English translation

Following the analysis mentioned above, the present authors are putting forth the English of commonly used infant Tuina points in the following.

4.1 Points on the head and face

The points on the head and face are shown in the following.

4.2 Points on the chest and abdomen

The points on the chest and abdomen are shown in the following.

4.3 Points on the upper limbs

The points on the upper limbs are shown in the following.

May 2015, Vol.13, No.3

206 Journal of Integrative Medicine
4.4 Points on the lower limbs

箕门：dustpan gate (Jimen); 血海：SP10 (Xuehai); 足三里：ST36 (Zusanli); 承山：BL57 (Chengshan); 涌泉：KI1 (Yongquan).

5 Concluding remarks

In summary, as a branch of TCM and being different from acupuncture points, it is reasonable to include infant Tuina points in the future international standardized TCM nomenclatures or dictionaries. However, due to their particular features, inclusion of Chinese pinyin and equivalent principles are essential. Under such principles, the present authors suggest an English translation protocol for them. Though the English translation for these infant Tuina points may still have some defects, we hope it can draw attention from related scholars and authorities to work towards a better version.

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7 Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that they have no commercial or associative interest that represents a conflict of interest in connection with the work submitted.

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