

[54] **ELECTRICAL ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLE HEATER**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method and apparatus for electrically heating an acupuncture needle that has been inserted into a subject is disclosed. An applicator unit contains an electrical heating element thermally coupled to an acupuncture needle and directly to the skin adjacent to the acupuncture needle. Regulation and control of the heat supplied by the applicator unit is achieved through the control of electrical power supplied to the heating element. Either temperature or power control can be selected, and temperature indication is provided. In use, after the acupuncture needle has been inserted through the subject's skin, the applicator unit is attached to the acupuncture needle and regulated electrical power is applied to produce controlled heat.

21 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

