



# To what extent should acupuncture be introduced into the NHS for treatment of cancer?

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION MIRI - UPPER SIXTH

The great thing about an EPQ is that you can choose whatever topic you want to do, from fashion projects to analysis of Shakespeare or the use of robots in surgery!

I started brainstorming with a focus that I wanted to choose a question centred around medicine, and cancer treatments interested me after doing work experience at the RD&E Hospital in the Oncology Department.

I found a trial done by the Christie Hospital in Manchester that uses acupuncture in treating neuropathy for cancer patients and I found this really interesting. I realised this would be a great topic to be able to explore further, as I thought it would be interesting to look at the efficacy of acupuncture on patients and see if the results would give an idea on acupuncture's place in cancer treatment.

At first, I was sceptical of acupuncture and I was sure it was a psychological response however, after research, I saw the amount of people that had been positively affected by this form of treatment. Whilst it was hard to analyse trials, I saw that acupuncture should be used for people who found it beneficial to them, and I saw the importance of patient centred care in the NHS, which I believe acupuncture should be a part of.

I really enjoyed my project and would recommend an EPQ to anyone, whatever their A-level subjects or interests. It has really helped me with my medical interviews, critical analysis of sources and organisation skills!