**BBC Radio 4**

01/17/2017 08:46:35 AM

* [BBC Radio 4](https://scout.tveyes.com/) /

* [U.K. National Radio](https://scout.tveyes.com/)

next time your baby is falling because of colic don't reach the medicine bottle all the ear plugs reach for the needle the acupuncture needle that's what the journal acupuncture medicine seems to be suggesting on the basis of its own study I am joined by Dr Mike Cummins whose one of the associate editor of acupuncture in medicine he's also medical director of the British medical society

and also in the studio Professor David Cologne who is the pharmacologist at University College London Dr Cummings are you saying or is this study and it's pretty small one isn't it is it saying that you can cure you won't stop colic with acupuncture the morning juggling all for having me erm this is the biggest of the biggest study in this in this area today it is small of course is very limited funding for these type of studies we're it's a very tentative suggestion that acupuncture might play a role it is certainly not a definitive study and technically in technical terms the study is negative the primary outcome that means whether primary outcome you you pre specified what you're measuring the primary outcome in terms of which particular measure of crying did not actually turn out to be statistically significant also does work no you can't say does work from a single trial like this there are

for those about 4 trials been done in this area and we're waiting for them all the results to be added to added up inner inner review right to see the trouble with small trials John is that term they very they very rarely give you a definitive answers this is merely a suggestion that it might be useful are and an and Professor Colin you're you're concerned that it has been published under the auspices of the BMJ Yes it is rather absurd that the BMJ which is very good job a heart on evidence Fiona Godlee editor has done great work that this is not the BMJ this is it those published by the BMJ press and it's not it's devoted to a single form of alternative medicine it it really is quite worrying that they should pub publish such a job as a statistical standards this pic appalling and bled and bled coming as it does admit that it does not actually show anything because that's the point clearly the

case but but she is your view is that acupuncture is bogus medicine absolutely Yes she 1500 trials some of which have been very good and miles have been very good not the outcomes that the trials have been well conducted S her and and people are still arguing about it you know if you could imagine you had a appealed for flu Tamiflu was something that was 3500 trials and still no definitive outcome was a forget it the bigger but because there is this alternative medicine lobby is rather strong and because the public interest it and keep putting it on the today programme mucky by gunmen last time we talked about that anyway don't don't come here what do you make of that well to be fair in them it is difficult to show it is difficult to show in the modern standards the difference between needling needling in acupuncture studies in the best quality acupuncture studies what do you do in the control group in general you stick

needles in In you try not to do it properly so it's it's nearly against needling there is a difference the biggest data sets show a clear difference it's a small difference between needling needle that's what you should be checking out by Bob was an expert in these days but shortly or you should be checking his needling vs for want of a better word conventional medicine appeal Oh Yes no we there are plenty of studies comparing acupuncture with conventional medicine but but the sceptics such as the Professor and don't allow those comparisons do well know a nice don't allow those comparisons they want to see the difference of acupuncture against sham acupuncture witches needling against needling and those differences a clear statistical a but they're very small nice say well they're too small for us to be interested in big ones well because of funding it is very

difficult to get funding recommends trouser very few funders interested in doing those trousers is quite competitive to try and get term funding from government so given that Professor got Lynch shouldn't we at least be open minded because clearly there are people out there are many people out there who believe acupuncture does has worked for them well you know any good parent and they kid is crying baby what what's the 1st thing they think all he'll come good this is the 21st century it's been disproved some time ago but I you're a dead as you described are are you a sceptic as far as acupuncture is considering deed alternative medicines concert it Yes I am because the be the reason they're called alternative is because there is no evidence for it it just occasionally a good things will turn up like the Chinese herb that contained something which was good

for malaria but the quartet soap that autumn reason is purified in its cities being alternative just becomes part of medicine so he's called alternative means of was no evidence that good OK cooks centres on that under current a well you do you expect Professor of pharmacology to be intern Med since the medicines are always the answer really do have medicines particularly for example nonsteroidal anti countries have serious side-effects and acupuncture has a potential role to play in in pain must treat pain there are think about putting the baby for Harlow cuddling the baby who was a Professor at Kowloon last thought there was taken from group well indeed thank you both very much David go Hoon and Michael xx argument to everything the answer to everything you know 9 minutes past 9 minutes past 9 minutes to do now I'm not there yet