

Electroacupuncture in the treatment of chronic lameness in horses and ponies: a controlled clinical trial.

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Electroacupuncture was used to treat lameness in horses and ponies with chronic laminitis (n = 10) or navicular disease (n = 10). A clinical trial was conducted with random allocation of equal numbers of animals to control and treatment groups. Acupuncture was performed three times per week for four consecutive weeks. The degree of lameness was assessed by 1) a grading scheme, 2) measurement of stride lengths and 3) analysis of weight distribution using a force plate. Although seven out of ten animals with chronic laminitis improved clinically during the trial, there were no statistically significant differences between treatment and control groups. Six out of ten horses with navicular disease improved, but there were no significant differences between treatment and control groups.

A comparison of the traditional Chinese versus transpositional zangfu organ association acupoint locations in the horse.

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The traditional Chinese (TC) and transpositional (TP) methods of animal acupoint location result in different acupoint charts. Representative TC and TP equine zangfu organ shu-association acupoint charts are compared to each other and to a human chart. Despite their differences, practitioners of both methods appear to achieve equally effective therapeutic results--a phenomenon termed "traditional Chinese/transpositional equal efficacy" (TTEE). Common veterinary acupuncture practices, traditional Chinese medical theory, spinal cord anatomy, and a preliminary equine "association segment" chart are proposed to explain TTEE. The differences between the charts indicate that all documented animal acupoint locations should be explicitly described.

: *Probl Vet Med* 1992 Mar;4(1):144-54

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Acupuncture for gastrointestinal disorders.

Dill SG

Acupuncture is best known for its application to various musculoskeletal pain-producing diseases. Acupuncture is, however, used for a large variety of internal medical diseases in humans and other animals. This chapter reviews some of the published literature on the use of acupuncture in gastrointestinal (GI) diseases, describes acupuncture points useful for a variety of GI diseases, briefly reviews how traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) treats GI disease, and gives some case examples of how acupuncture can be used in GI diseases.

Publication Types:

- Review
- Review, tutorial

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Methods of stimulating acupuncture points for treatment of chronic back pain in horses.

Klide AM, Martin BB Jr

Department of Clinical Studies, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 19104-6010.

Horses with chronic back pain of 2 to 108 months' duration were treated using acupuncture (n = 15), laser acupuncture (n = 15), or injection acupuncture (n = 15). Horses were treated once a week for 8 treatments (mean) with needle acupuncture, 11 treatments with laser acupuncture, or 9 treatments with injection acupuncture. After treatment, 37 horses had alleviation of clinical signs of pain and could train and compete: 13 horses treated with needle acupuncture; 11 horses treated with laser acupuncture; and 13 horses treated with injection acupuncture. Seemingly, the 3 types of acupuncture were equally useful for treating horses with chronic back pain.

PMID: 2531133, UI: 90061856

Am J Vet Res 1988 Oct;49(10):1708-12

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Cardiovascular effects of acupuncture stimulation at point Governing Vessel 26 in halothane-anesthetized ponies.

Dill SG, Gleed R, Matthews NS, Erb HN, Miller TK

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The acupuncture point Governing Vessel (GV-26) is used commonly in the Orient to treat shock in human beings and other species. The cardiovascular effects of stimulation of GV-26 were studied in healthy ponies during 2 episodes of halothane anesthesia. During one anesthetic episode, electrical stimulation (electrostimulation) of GV-26 was performed, and during the other anesthetic episode, heat stimulation (moxibustion) of GV-26 was performed. The order of the stimulations was random. A nonacupuncture point was selected for comparable control stimulation during each experiment. Control and acupuncture stimulations were of equal intensity. There were no significant changes in cardiac output, systemic arterial pressure, or heart rate associated with either electrical or heat acupuncture stimulation.

Science 1984 Sep 14;225(4667):1172-4

The twitch in horses: a variant of acupuncture.

Lagerweij E, Nelis PC, Wiegant VM, van Ree JM

The twitch procedure in horses attenuates the increase in the heart rate evoked by pain-inducing stimuli and the reaction of the animals to such stimuli. Endorphin systems are probably involved in the effectiveness of the twitch, since its action is blocked by naloxone and its application increases plasma concentrations of immunoreactive beta-endorphin. The mode of action of the twitch cannot be explained by the generally accepted theory of divertive pain and may resemble that of classical acupuncture.

Am J Vet Res 1984 Apr;45(4):620-5

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Production of cutaneous analgesia by electroacupuncture in horses: variations dependent on sex of subject and locus of stimulation.

Bossut DF, Page EH, Stromberg MW

Cutaneous pain thresholds to pinprick, pinch, and heat stimuli were quantified during control and electroacupuncture trials in 23 horses. Pain thresholds for 8 areas of the body during control trials (no needles) were statistically compared with pain thresholds measured in the same areas of the same horse when given electroacupuncture treatment. Statistically significant increases of pain threshold were interpreted as induced analgesia and occurred mainly in 5 areas of the trunk, but not in the head or extremities. Analgesic efficacy varied between sexes and among 3 groups of points chosen from Chinese traditional veterinary literature. Analgesia was induced equally well in both castrated males and intact females by the electrostimulation of 5 needles inserted on the gluteal (rump) and lumbar (loins) regions. However, stimulation of 2 needles located only in the gluteal region caused a significant analgesia in females only. In contrast, stimulation of 2 needles located in the thoracic limb was analgesic in males, but infrequently so in females. Therefore, we observed differential analgesia due to an interaction between needle location and sex of subject.

J Am Vet Med Assoc 1977 Jan 15;170(2):220-4

Acupuncture: clinical trials in the horse.

Gideon L

A discussion of the merits of acupuncture therapy and a review of experiments that support the neurogenic mediation of acupuncture are presented. Case reports are included as examples of the therapeutic value of acupuncture in treatment of intestinal and musculoskeletal disorders in the horse. Statistical importance cannot be credited to the clinical experiences reported here because of the small number of cases. Hopefully, the clinical success reported will encourage continued investigation of the clinical efficacy and adjunctive value of acupuncture in the veterinary profession.

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