

The relation between the acupoint structures and the clinical therapeutic effects

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SUMMARY

We performed a histological study upon the acupuncture points and their effectiveness of clinical treatment; the background was the clinic evidence that a multitude of points are used in treating a disease, but only some of which may have an efficacy, since the others did not. After a comparative histological and anatomic study, it comes out that those points, which are more effective from a structural point of view, identify a neural fibrillar concentration, a well developed capillary network and an increased mucopolysaccharides (MPS) concentration, in particular, acid mucopolysaccharides.

The present paper presents histological data, which demonstrate the difference in the structure of the acupuncture points, postulating their specific influence on clinical treatment.

INTRODUCTION

Acupuncture, a main branch of Chinese medicine, accumulated clinical experience and wisdom by centuries and it is now developed and practiced in 140 countries worldwide (Sistenich, 2001; Im, 2000), attracting interest in research. Its theories explain the use of the meridians and collaterals on the bases of their effects on nerve system, blood vessels, lymphatic system, bio-electricity and cybernetics (Yu, 1997; Yu, 1999; Murray, 2002). There has been also a number of morphological studies of acupoints that reported some findings: (1) there is a very rich vascular network beneath the point; (2) the point are closely related also to nerves and lymphatics; (3) no special changes were found concerning neurovascular pathways; (4) a special network of capillaries have been found beneath the points; (5) "the point of the stereo-constructionism" has been proposed; (6) "multi-mineral-element-concentrated" loci and areas have been found; (7) the Ca^{++} density increases in needle points; (8) the existence of a length of 15.5 μm spontaneously shape-narrowed wave