

Equine Dissection Study Investigating the Underlying Anatomy of Acupuncture Points and Meridians from a Fascia Perspective

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Hugh efforts has been made to find the anatomical foundation for acupuncture points without clear results. By following the myofascial kinetic lines it becomes obvious how some of them follow the acupuncture channels.

Langevin (2011) has shown how acupuncture points is overlying intermuscular fascia structures in the human arm. She suggests that part of the mechanisms behind acupuncture is through the three-dimensional web of connective tissue and fascia. A dissection study was undertaken to investigate if similar connection between acupuncture points and fascia were present in horses.

The back of seven horses, euthanized due to other reasons than this study at University of Copenhagen, were dissected longitudinally and in transverse sections to look for acupuncture points on mainly the Bladder (BL) and Governing Vessel (GV) meridians. The intermuscular fascia underlying the two branches of the BL meridian and the GV meridian was studied and considerations about the angulation of the acupuncture needle by insertion into the bladder meridian points has been made according to the intermuscular fascia. Comparisons of the anatomical descriptions of the BL meridian in the existing literature were made. Additional points on the Gallbladder, Kidney, Large Intestine and Lung meridians were dissected as well.

The study showed that it was obvious how the examined acupuncture points overlaid intermuscular fascia septa. It also showed that the inner branch of the BL meridian runs in a intramuscular septa of m.longissimus dorsi and not between the latter and m.iliocostalis as described in the literature. The three-dimensional fascia web may well be the anatomical foundation for acupuncture meridians and points. This supports the ancient knowledge of how a needle inserted at one point can have action further away. It also confirms why most acupuncture points are found in depths. Existing veterinary descriptions of the BL meridian need revise to correct anatomy of the back muscles.

The Deep Myofascial Kinetic Lines in Relation to the Yin Meridians, Six Levels and Eight Extra Meridians

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The Deep Myofascial Kinetic Lines based on functional anatomy research show close relationships to acupuncture meridians and the six levels. There are four Deep Myofascial Kinetic Lines, they are: Deep Dorsal Line (DDL), Deep Ventral Line (DVL), Front Limb Adduction Line (FADL), Deep Lateral Line (DLL) and Front Limb Abduction Line (FABL). DDL and DVL will be discussed in depth.

It will be discussed how DDL associate to the Du Mai (Governing Vessel, GV) and how the myodural bridges create the anatomical connection between the meridian and the brain, which by the Chinese are described to be one of the main targets for GV.

By looking at the anatomy of the DVL it becomes clear who it relates to both the Dai Mai, Chong Mai and Ren Mai (Conception Vessel, CV) of the eight extra meridians as well as to the Yin meridians. The Yin connections of the six levels also becomes obvious especially the Yue Yin (Liver/Pericardium) and Tai Yin (Heart/Kidney). Cross sections of the neck, thorax and abdomen clearly show these connections.

For the Front Limb Lines the Yin connections will be explained.

Objectives:

1. How the Deep Myofascial Kinetic Lines relate to the Eight Extra meridians.
2. How there is anatomical evidence for the six levels.