FASCIA AND MYOFASCIA BASED ACUPUNCTURE FOR MUSCULO-SKELETAL PROBLEMS IN HORSES

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BACKGROUND: The fascia controlled biomechanics and posture of the horse in nature are quite different than those required for the ridden horse. This is especially true of horses used in athletic endeavors. Failure to create the required changes results in higher injury rates and a shorter useful performance life.

METHOD: The author of this presentation has developed a myofascially based system of acupuncture to address the problems and injuries that typically result from the failure of trainers and riders to create the postural changes required.

RESULTS: This system directly normalizes fascial tension in myofascial units or segments of fascial kinetic lines in the horse[1]. These kinetic lines correlate well with eight of the fascial "trains" in the human as described by Tom Myers[2]. The acupuncture points that have been developed in this system, act like nodes or centers of organization as described in embryology of the human.The response to these points is similar to the "Centers of Coordination" described by Luigi and Carla Stecco in "Fascial Manipulation - Practical Part."[3] The system is unique in that the response is nearly instantaneous since the free nerve endings stimulated travel at five to seven meters per second. Immediate feedback as to accurate placement of the needles is established by retesting the myofascial areas by re-palpation. There is not placebo effect, as the horse has no vested interest in the outcome of treatment.

CONCLUSIONS: Beyond its value as a clinically effective modality, this system provides differentiation between strain of tendons and ligaments versus an actual desmitis or tendonitis. It is also effective in resolving vertebral dysfunction via the acupuncture. It finds marked value in the rehabilitation program of fascial soft tissue injuries by both stimulating healing and minimizing micro-tearing and thus reducing rehabilitation time.

REFERENCES

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