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Acupuncture and electroacupuncture are used in pain relief; however, the mechanism underlying the analgesic effect of acupuncture is unclear. Several lines of evidence propose that the periaqueductal gray (PAG), which is one of the regions that contributes to the endogenous pain inhibitory system, is involved in the analgesic effect of acupuncture, and the region receives several neural projections such as histamine and noradrenalin and contains the dopamine cell bodies.

The current study examined the effects of electroacupuncture at Zusanli (ST36) and Shangjuxu (ST37) acupoints, which are used for clinical pain control, on the release of neurotransmitters in the PAG in rats. Histamine and dopamine release was increased after pain stimulus, while the changes were completely abolished by electroacupuncture. Pain stimulus had no effect on noradrenalin release, but electroacupuncture increased its release.

These findings indicate that acupuncture at Zusanli and Shangjuxu exerts
19/01/2010 — Possible involvement of histamine, dopamine, and noradrenalin in the periaqueductal gray in electroacupuncture pain relief.

an antinociceptive effect via the activation of neurons in the PAG and that the histaminergic, dopaminergic, and noradrenalinergic systems in the PAG are related to electroacupuncture-induced pain relief.


Events Calendar for February 2010

Adelaide - Acupuncture for Sport Injury
Contact: Anh Phung Acupuncture Academy on 0413 353 878 or ap656961@yahoo.com This is a multi-day event ending on the ct/un

Sydney - Classical 5Element Acupuncture
Contact: Gye Bennetts on 02 9440 4194 or courses@5element.com.au This is a multi-day event ending on the 07/02

Melbourne - Classical 5Element Acupuncture
Contact: Gye Bennetts on 02 9440 4194 or courses@5element.com.au This is a multi-day event ending on the 14/02

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