

Distal Acupuncture: Theory and Practice

A systems based approach to complex patterns

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Steven Malins, DOM



Who am I?

My Experience

- Licensed for 10 years
- Community acupuncture for 3 years, 20+ patients per shift
- Community acupuncture for indigenous elders 2x month

References

- Deadman, P., Al-Khafaji, M., & Baker, K. (2007). A manual of acupuncture. Journal of Chinese Medicine.
- Kuwahara, T. K. (2003). Traditional Japanese Acupuncture: Fundamentals of Meridian therapy. Paradigm Publications.
- O'Connor, J., & Bensky, D. (1981). Acupuncture: A comprehensive text. Editora Roca.
- Tan, T. (2007). Acupuncture 1, 2, 3.

Why Distal Acupuncture?

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- ① Distal acupuncture works!

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- ② Patients with mobility issues
- ③ Wide range of conditions treated
- ④ Systems based, treat patterns not symptoms

How does acupuncture work?

Endorphin Acupuncture Analgesia (AA)

- AA Works much better than placebo
 - 55% to 85% of cases
 - Morphine 75% of cases!
 - Placebo 30% of cases

In summary, acupuncture stimulates nerve fibers in the muscle, which send impulses to the spinal cord and activates three centers (spinal cord, midbrain, and hypothalamus-pituitary) to cause analgesia.

Stux, G., & Pomeranz, B. (2012). Basics of acupuncture. Springer Science & Business Media.

Ling Shu

When there is a perverse disease with pain which goes along both sides of the backbone to reach the top of the head, and the head nods with heaviness, the eyes are blurred, and loins and spine are stiff and rigid, treat the Leg Major Yang at the point in the middle of the crease of the knee.

Jing-Nuan, W. (Trans.). (2011). Ling Shu: Or the spiritual pivot. The Taoist Center.

Diagnosis

TCM Diagnosis

TCM diagnosis, eg “spleen qi vacuity” works for herbs but is not useful for acupuncture

What is your diagnosis? Spleen Qi Deficiency?!

When to use Distal Acupuncture?

What Can Distal Acupuncture Treat?

Distal Acupuncture can treat (almost) any pattern/condition!

- Distal Acupuncture affects cells in Mid-Brain and Pituitary Hypothalamus
- All 5 shu points are distal on all 12 meridians
- Treating patterns and not symptoms reduces number of needles and increases effectiveness!

When NOT to use Distal Acupuncture

When to avoid Distal Acupuncture

- Open wounds near points needed
- Chronic pain not responsive to DA
- Medical Emergencies!

Case Study

MC: abdominal pain, progressively worse past 24h; rebound tenderness; temperature 100.0

Case Study 0.1

65F MC: Neck pain

Subjective

HPI: Neck pain started “a few days ago” worse with neck flexion; patient describes pain as “stiff”; radiates to whole head; severity 6 out of 10

Objective

P: vacuous; deep; rapid

PE: BP 110/76, PR 87, T 99.7; patient is slow to answer questions; otherwise unremarkable

Case Study 0.1

65F MC: Neck pain

Diagnosis

Suspected Meningitis!

Plan

Refer to ER for lumbar puncture to confirm or rule out Meningitis

Discussion



Ten Needle Technique

When the stomach and spleen, the central jiao, are attacked by emotion, pure qi cannot ascend to the brain, and the evil qi, the waste, cannot descend. It will remain stuck in the stomach.

Lee, M. (1992). Insights of a senior acupuncturist. Blue Poppy Enterprises.

Miriam Lee Magic 10

- ML treated up to 17 patients per hour!
- Many clinical applications
- “never fails” says Miriam Lee

LI-11	Pool at the Crook (Qu Chi)	Disperse
LI-4	Joining Valley (He Gu)	Disperse
LU-7	Broken Sequence (Lie Que)	Disperse
ST-36	Leg Three Miles (Zu San Li)	Tonify (Or Disperse)
SP-6	Three Yin Intersection (San Yin Jiao)	Tonify

Broken Sequence

Lung 7 :: Broken Sequence

- Luo Connecting point of Lung Hand Greater Yin
- Confluent Point of the Conception Vessel
- Gao Wu Command Point (head and neck)
- Ma Dan -Yang Heavenly Star Point

If we think of the alternative name Broken Sequence we can see how this point is good for breaking patterns of grief and loss.

Pool at the Crook

Large Intestine 11 :: Pool at the Crook

- Earth of Metal and Uniting Point of Large Intestine
- Sun Si-Miao Ghost Point
- Ma Dan-Yang Heavenly Star Point

Clears heat, cools the blood, eliminates wind, drains damp, relieves itching

Joining Valley

Large Intestine 4 :: Joining Valley

- Source point of the Large Intestine Hand Greater Yin
- Gao-Wu Command Point (face)
- Ma Dan-Yang Heavenly Star Point

Points on the thumb and big toe (eg LI-4 and LR-3) show greater response in the subcortex than other points on fingers and toes. Reflexology also recognizes these areas as having an effect on the head and master regulatory endocrine glands in the head.

Leg Three Miles

Stomach 36 :: Leg Three Miles

- Earth of Earth and uniting point of Stomach Foot Yang Brightness
- Gao-Wu Command Point (abdomen)
- Ma Dan-Yang Heavenly Star Point
- Point of the Sea of Water and Grain

Earth of Earth Leg Three Miles tonifies and adjusts the qi and blood of the entire body!

Acupuncture 1,2,3

- Dr Richard Tan
- Three Steps:
 - **Step 1:** Diagnose the Sick Meridian
 - Inspection
 - Auscultation
 - Inquiry
 - **Step 2:** Determine Treating Meridians
 - 5 Systems
 - **Step 3:** Point selection

An affected meridian may indicate solely a physical pain, or may be an indication of an internal issue

Meridian Name-Sharing

Meridian 1	Meridian 2
Lung Hand TaiYin	Spleen Foot TaiYin
Large Intestine Hand YangMing	Stomach Foot YangMing
Heart Hand ShaoYin	Kidney Foot ShaoYin
Small Intestine Hand TaiYang	Bladder Foot TaiYang
Triple Burner Hand ShaoYang	Gallbladder Foot ShaoYang
Pericardium Hand JueYin	Liver Foot JueYin

Needle Side

Opposite Side

Branching Meridians

Meridian 1	Meridian 2
Lung Hand TaiYin	Bladder Foot TaiYang
Large Intestine Hand YangMing	Liver Foot JueYin
Heart Hand ShaoYin	Gallbladder Foot ShaoYang
Small Intestine Hand TaiYang	Spleen Foot TaiYin
Triple Burner Hand ShaoYang	Kidney Foot ShaoYin
Pericardium Hand JueYin	Stomach Foot YangMing

Needle Side

Either Side

System III

Interior Exterior

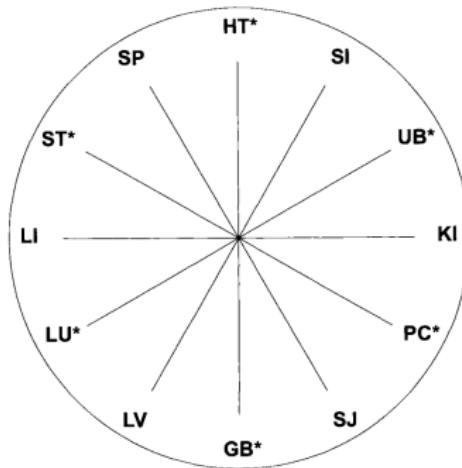
Meridian 1	Meridian 2
Lung	Large Intestine
Heart	Small Intestine
Pericardium	Triple Burner
Spleen	Stomach
Kidney	Bladder
Liver	Gallbladder

Needle Side

Opposite Side

System IV

Clock Opposites



Needle Side

Either Side

Clock Neighbors

Meridian 1	Meridian 2
Lung	Liver
<i>Large Intestine</i>	<i>Stomach</i>
Spleen	Heart
<i>Small Intestine</i>	<i>Bladder</i>
Kidney	Pericardium
<i>Triple Burner</i>	<i>Gallbladder</i>

Needle Side

Opposite Side

Imaging I

<u>Needled Area</u>	<u>Image</u>	<u>Sick Area</u>	<u>Reverse Image</u>
Finger	Genitals anus	Top of head	
Hand	Coccyx, sacrum	Base of head	
Wrist	Bladder L-S	Neck	
Forearm	Low AB and Back	Upper ab and back	
Elbow	Umbilicus, L-2, waist	Umbilicus, L-2, waist	
Upper arm	Upper ab and back	Low AB and Back	
Shoulder	Base of head	Coccyx, sacrum	
Top of shoulder	Top of head	Genitals anus	

Imaging II

<u>Needled Area</u>	<u>Image</u>	<u>Sick Area</u>
		<i>Reverse Image</i>
Toe	Genitals anus	Top of head
Foot	Coccyx, sacrum	Base of head
Ankle	Bladder L-S	Neck
Lower Leg	Low AB and Back	Upper ab and back
Knee	Umbilicus, L-2, waist	Umbilicus, L-2, waist
Upper Leg	Upper ab and back	Low AB and Back
Hip	Base of head	Coccyx, sacrum
Top of Hip	Top of head	Genitals anus

Acupuncture 1,2,3 Example

Back Pain

Area of Discomfort: Paraspinal pain from L3 to L4, left side

1,2,3

Diagnose the Sick Meridian

Bladder meridian, left side

Determine Treating Meridian

System 1 & 5: Small Intestine

System 2 & 4: Lung

System 3: Kidney

Point Selection

SI 7 to SI 8 right side

LU 5 to LU 6 either side

KI 8 to KI 10 right side

Acupuncture 1,2,3 Example

Bells's Palsy

Area of Discomfort: Facial paralysis and pain, with difficulty moving the eye, cheek, and mouth, right side.

Step 1 and 2

Diagnose the Sick Meridian

Gallbladder, Stomach, Large Intestine, Triple Burner, right side

Step 2: Determine Treating Meridians

	GB	ST	LI	TB
I	TB	LI	ST	GB
II	HT	PC	LR	KD
III	LR	SP	LU	PC
IV	HT	PC	KD	SP
V	TB	LI	ST	GB

Whole Back Pain

Dr Tan balance method for whole back, from his book
Acupuncture, 1,2,3

Left	Right
LU-5, PC-3, HT-3, HT-7 GB-41, UB-65	Ling Gu, Da Bai, Zhong Bai KI-3, KI-10, SP-6, LR-5
