

Free Nerve Endings in Biological Active Point ST₃₆ of Rat

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Point Stomach 36 (ST₃₆) is one of the most important and most commonly used in acupuncture biological active point (BAP). The aim of the study is to determine the presence or absence of free nerve endings in the area of acupuncture point ST₃₆. Free nerve endings are unencapsulated, they are the most common type of nerve ending, and are most frequently found in the skin. Free nerve endings infiltrate the epidermis and surround hair follicles. We observe a large amount of hair follicles in the dermis with sebaceous glands. We observe accumulation of free nerve endings around the hair follicles. The nerve innervations in the hair follicles possibly play a role for the effect of acupuncture at point ST₃₆ in rats.

Key words: acupuncture, BAP – biological active point, histology, rat, ST₃₆, free nerve endings.