

Changes in Collagen and Elastic Fibers in Biological Active Point ST₃₆ of Rats after Experimental Acupuncture

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One of the most used methods of Chinese medicine is acupuncture. Point ST₃₆ is one of the most important and most commonly used in acupuncture biologically active points (BAP). The target of this study is, by using the classic histological techniques, to identify any changes that occur in the elastic and collagen fibers under the influence of acupuncture needle. We observe deformation and partial demolition of adjacent elastic and collagen fibers and the fascia. In the needle canal elastic and collagen fibers are destroyed. Particles of loose connective tissue and fascia, collagen and elastic fibers fall into striated muscle, located in the depth of the point. Changes in the structure of elastic and collagen fibers are most clearly differentiated near the channel formed by the acupuncture needle, but also occur in adjacent areas of skin. The defect seen is with a minimum size and the tissue integrity recovers fast after the removal of the needle.

Key words: acupuncture, BAP – biologically active point, histology, rat, ST₃₆, elastic and collagen fibers.