

**Effect of Electroacupuncture Combined with Anti-Anxiotic Drug on Acral Lick Dermatitis by Anxiety Disorder in Canines**

Chien-Wei Ke and Yi-Wen Lin

*Graduate Institute of Acupuncture Science, China Medical University, Taichung 40402, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

Canine acral lick dermatitis (ALD), also known as lick granuloma or canine neurodermatitis is a stereotypic behavior resulting in self-mutilation, is an injury to the skin caused by chronic licking. Many veterinarians believe itchy skin triggers excessive licking. In addition to physiological causes, incessant licking is also a common obsessive-compulsive disorder in dogs. In most cases in which the licking may have a psychological cause, veterinarian may recommend a trial of an anti-depressant medication. Some breeds such as the Labrador retriever, Golden retriever, German Shepherd, Doberman, Irish setter, Siberian Husky, Great Dane, Poodle, and Yorkshire terrier, are predisposed. The aim of this study is to evaluate the efficacy of electroacupuncture (EA) treatment combined with drugs in canine acral lick dermatitis. Six canines diagnosed with ALD was used and randomized into drug group and drug with EA manipulation. Clomipamine (2mg/kg) was administrated twice a day and EA manipulation was delivered twice a week. 2Hz EA was applied at the Hegu (LI4), Quchi (LI11), Shenmen (HT7), and Neiguan (PC6) acupoints, conventional acupuncture was applied at the Sishencong (EX-HN1), Baihui (GV20) and Taichong (LV3) acupoints for 4 weeks. Visual analogue scale (VAS) was evaluated with licking limb behavior every week. VAS score was significantly reduced after treatment in two groups ( $p < 0.05$ ). The therapeutic effect was higher in EA group at the first week after treatment ( $p < 0.05$ ) than drug group only. Accordingly, EA can reliably shorten the treatment time than drug only group in ALD canines.

**Key words:** Acral lick dermatitis, anxiety, electroacupuncture