

HOW ACUPUNCTURE WORKS

SIGNAL STIMULUS

The stimulus from acupuncture needling creates a cascade of signaling throughout the connective tissue (fascia) involving the blood, nerves and immune system.

ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLE INSERTION

- Stimulates a local and a centralized reaction.
- The local reaction involves Sensory Neurons in the skin being stimulated.
- The central reaction occurs when the signals reach the brain and spinal cord.

ACUPUNCTURE POINTS

Acupuncture points are located in areas with higher concentrations of:

- Superficial nerves
- Blood vessels
- Neuromuscular attachments – where vessels and nerves penetrate muscle fascia

CENTRAL EFFECT OF NEEDLING

Both the Central and Peripheral Nervous Systems are effected

NERVOUS SYSTEM

Central Nervous System

Brain

Spinal Cord

HPA Axis
(see below)

Peripheral Nervous System

Voluntary Muscles –
movement

Nerves

Smooth Muscle – lining of
organs

Stress/Emergency
response

WHAT YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW

1. Acupuncture needling promotes homeostasis and self-healing. In short, acupuncture stimulates the body to heal itself.
2. Acupuncture influences:
 - A. The Nervous System — muscles, nerves, internal organs
 - B. Cardiovascular System — blood flow, distribution of nutrients, hormones
 - C. Endocrine System — Hypothalamic-Pituitary-Adrenal axis regulation— major pathway for homeostatic regulation
 - D. Immune System — strengthens the immune function of the body