

Comparison of Acupuncture with Dog-Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) Application in separation anxiety of hospitalized dogs

**Young-Mee Kim, Soo-Hyun Gu, Chae Young Lim, Ha-Jung Kim and Hee Myung Park*
Hye-Jung Lee¹, Dae-Hyun Hahm¹,**

Department of Veterinary Internal Medicine, College of veterinary medicine, Konkuk University and Acupuncture and Meridian Research Center, Institute of Oriental Medicine, Department of Meridian and acupuncture, College of Korean Medicine, Kyung-Hee University, Hoigi-dong, Dongdaemoon-gu, Seoul 130-701, Korea

To evaluate the efficacy of acupuncture and synthetic Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) for the treatment of separation anxiety of hospitalization, twenty five hospitalized dogs were examined. DAP was delivered with an electrically heated diffuser. Acupuncture was performed at the two proper positions of inside of ear skin known as sedative effect.

For the baseline assessments, clinical signs of separation anxiety were examined on the first day of hospitalization. These were regularly checked with the intervals of 8 hours and repeated until the day of discharge.

By comparing with baseline and final assessments, the efficacy of Acupuncture and DAP was evaluated.

Separation induced problems were decreased in both treatment groups, and the efficacy was slightly higher in Acupuncture treatment. However, the differences of the efficacy of two treatments were not statistically significant.

In conclusion, Acupuncture and DAP application are all effective to decrease separation anxieties. Thus, Acupuncture as well as DAP could be improving the welfare of dogs which are hospitalized.

This work was supported by the Korea Research Foundation Grant funded by the Korean Government(MOEHRD) (KRF-2005-041-E00413).

This work was supported by the SRC program of KOSEF (R11-2005-014).