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CL4 - ELECTRO-ACUPUNCTURE AS A COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY IN ODONTOSTOMATOLOGY

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INTRODUCTION
Pain is common and frequent human experience, often defined as an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage. A subjective and complex phenomenon, pain is responsible for significant discomfort and psychosocial morbidity. A paradigmatic example of such circumstances is that which is associated with surgical procedures involving the soft and hard tissues of the face and oral cavity. Although various therapeutic agents are available to alleviate or neutralize pain, analgesic drugs often associate with adverse side effects according to the patient’s physical and psychological condition. Acupuncture is a widely used therapeutic method in the management of pain and cure of certain illnesses, achieved through application of needle stimuli to specific points in the skin.

AIMS
To review the physiological effects and therapeutic efficacy of acupuncture on pain mechanisms, as well as to demonstrate its employability as a co-adjuvant therapy in stomatology and allied fields.

METHODOLOGY
The search was done in an electronic search database (PUBMED) commencing January 1995 and ceasing December 2010, using the

DISCUSSION:
Widely employed among oriental medicine, only recently has acupuncture gained acceptability amongst medical practitioners in the Occident. Although proven to be an effective analgesic and rarely contra-indicated it is generally omitted from dental practice. In part due to the lack of formal training and diffusion.

CONCLUSION
Evidence that support of the therapeutic effectiveness of electro-acupuncture stimulation has reached a wide consensus. Needle electro stimulation-induced analgesia not only prolongs the anesthetic effect of standard anesthetic drugs, it also lowers effective dose administration. Additionally, it lowers the need for postoperative analgesic intake. The global benefit being that it reduces the risk of complications.

REFERENCES: