Effects of Acupuncture on Somatosensory Evoked Potentials: A Review

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INTRODUCTION

- Types of Acupuncture used
  - Acupuncture analgesia (AA)
  - Manual Acupuncture (MA)
  - Electrical Acupuncture (EA)

- Purpose
  - Mainly analgesic
Effects of acupuncture on conventional SEP

- In 1976, acupoints used:
  - Right Hegu and Neiguan
  - SEP elicited at right median nerve at wrist
  - Recorded from left somatosensory hand
Fig. 1 Mean values of SEP components before (solid line) and during (broken line) EA based on the results of seven subjects.

SEP was elicited by electric stimulation of the right Hegu and Neiguan acupoints.

Note that the peak-to-peak amplitude of \textbf{N1-P1} is decreased but that of \textbf{N2-P2} increased during EA.
Median nerve stimulation

- Stimulation = 300ms
- P1 – (-) peak 19ms (+) peak 27ms
  - significantly decreased in 10-30 min
  - after 50 min EA stimulation
- P2 – (-) peak 34 ms (+) peak 44 ms
  - significantly increased from beginning to 20 mins.
- Median nerve stimulation
  + Stimulation = 350 ms
  + P2 – (-) peak 34 ms (+) peak 44 ms
    ➢ significantly increased from beginning to 20 mins. After the cessation of 50 min EA stimulation