Acupuncture was used to treat seizures of unknown origin in a 10 years old Border Collie

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Case report

TITLE

Acupuncture was used to treat seizures of unknown origin in a 10 years old Border Collie

ABSTRACT

Acupuncture treatment was used to successfully treat seizures of unknown origin in a 10-year-old border collie.
We started with two sessions a week, then, one treatment per month. It was effective to stop the seizures which weren’t totally managed by occidental medication (still one crisis per month).
The dog is still under treatment.
HISTORY

Willy, a 10-year-old Border Collie of 24.4 kilos, male non spayed, was presented for an acupuncture consultation after starting seizures on the 22nd of November 2017. Prior to this, Willy was sent to a clinic for neurologic and complementary exams. Due to the late apparition of seizures in the life of Willy, we suspected another diagnosis than essential epilepsy. A scanner and a ponction of cephalo-rachidian liquid was performed under sedation: nothing was found (cf addendum 1 and 2). Due to the severity of the seizures (total loss of consciousness, peeing, long post ictal state during when the dog was ataxic and dranked his pee), Willy started Pexion 250mg BID. Amelioration occurs but Willy still had seizures on the frequency of twice a month. We advised the owner to add Epileptyl 10 drops BID: this led to less apparitions of seizures but still once a month, so the owner decided to try acupuncture. Before starting acupuncture on Willy, i decided to take a blood sample to make a total check (addendum 3): results were quite normal.

CLINICAL SIGNS/DIAGNOSIS/WESTERN

The owner presented Willy due to the seizures which weren’t totally stopped by the medication (PEXION 250mg BID and Epileptyl 10 drops BID). The seizures appeared brutally at the end of November 2017. It was the first time Willy showed this kind of symptoms but when he started to show these symptoms, crisis were more and more frequent (one or twice a week). Crisis were always happening in evening or night: the smallest seizures at about 7-8 PM and the worse between 2 and 3 AM, waking up the owner by the noise Willy was making during seizures. There were little pre-ictal crisis (agitation), during the crisis (which lasted 1 or 2 minutes) there was a total lost of consciousness, dog was peeing and pooing under him. The crisis were tonico-clonic. There was after each crisis a post ictal-crisis of variable length related to severity of crisis, with ataxia, a great thirst with the dog drinking with own pee (who smelt a lot after crisis). Crisis seemed to appear more easily after days when the dog exercised too much (too long walks). After Scanner and punction of LCR were performed and showed no results, Willy was putted by the previous clinic on conventional medication for epileptic dog (Pexion 250mg BID) which decrease frequency of crisis to one in 2 weeks so i added Epileptyl (10 drops BID) with no great success.
I did prelevement of blood samples to be sure Willy did not suffer of “epileptiform” crisis due to a metabolic dysfunction. When i was sure all was normal, i decided to start acupuncture sessions.

In the exam room Willy is quite relaxed, comes to me to be petted, jumped himself on the table.
The physical western exam showed no abnormalities except a little nodule on the left testicle and a very small heart murmur in mitral area grade I of IV.
He seemed in good shape for his age and still quite active. Willy is in order of vaccination and deworming treatment.
Neurologic exam was normal during the first visit.
Differential diagnosis: essential epilepsy or epileptiform crisis (but all the exams performed for this second option were negative).

CLINICAL SIGNS/DIAGNOSE - TCM (EASTERN)

Willy is a Border Collie who was acquiered at 3 months of age. We have no information about the parents of Willy and their state of health. The only thing we know is that it was a very little litter (few puppies).
Willy is a gentle dog, full of joy (but adequate joy), without any fear. He is quite active but not hyperactive and like to be petted. I would say he is a Earth type dog (with little fire due to his level of activity)

Willy eats normally, with good appetite, dry food (Eukanuba senior ad libitum but Willy eats at his own rhythm and prefers eating on evening time).
He drinks normal amounts of water except after the crisis where he drinks a lot and even his own pee.
Poo are quite normal except after a run when he shows sometimes loose stools.
Urinates are ok except after crisis: they smell a lot! There are no incontinence.
Willy does not vomit but sometimes shows coughs (once in 2 weeks: strong, humid, unproductive).
Willy never had surgery nor scars.
Sometimes he shows pain in the right hind leg, feels better with exercice but if he runs too long it will worsen again. There are no changes with the weather.
When Willy is tired, owner said he seems older than his age.

Willy prefers cold places to sleep and sleeps on the floor on hard surfaces.
He sleeps well but dreams at loud very strongly.
The head, neck, face, back and body showed no asymmetry but there was a slight difference of temperature (lower belly colder than the back). He has a little bit tartar on the teeth but seems quite normal for his age. He is not limping but shows a loss of muscle on the right hind limb and swelling of medial collateral knee ligament. Mucosae are pink and little sticky. The tongue has a good spirit, good shape and pink in color, perhaps a little bit purplish, humidity of the tongue is normal to poor, perhaps little little thin. Pulse is easily felt, strong, slow and shows no difference between left or right. Ting point on KID1 left and right are sensitive. Back shu point are positive in LU (Bl13), HT (Bl15) and Kd (BL23) with a sensation of “hole” in both BL23. Willy blinked his right eye everytime i pushed on BL23 right. Mu point was only positive on GB25 right (alarm-Mu of Kidney)

Put it all together:

Smelly pee after crisis: heat in the bladder
Thin tongue: yin deficiency (not enough fluids to fill the tongue)
Purplish tongue: stagnation
Arthrosis on knee: bony bi syndrom; chronic cold damp accumulation due to chronic spleen Qi deficiency
Sticky pink mucosas: damp
Lameness better with movement: Qi stagnation
Lameness worsen after too much exercise: Qi deficiency
Dog prefers hard surfaces: Qi deficiency
Loss of muscle: spleen deficiency
Dreaming at loud: yin deficiency
Worst crisis happening between 2 and 3 AM : time related to liver maximum level of energy
Seizures: liver yang rising because of, kidney yin deficiency

There are both signs of yin and yang signs with predominance of yin signs in this dog.

A diagnostic is made of **kidney yin deficiency** on Willy, perhaps with some liver signs. And an underlying spleen Qi deficiency due to the long lasting dry food nourishment. Spleen Qi deficiency and kidney Qi deficiency for right hind leg.
CONVENTIONAL (WESTERN) TREATMENT

Imépitoïne (Pexion) 250 mg twice a day was started at the end of november, then Epileptyl (homeopathic formula) 10 drops twice a day was added in january: an improvement was noticed and seizures were less frequent but still there every month so i proposed Willy's owner to try acupuncture.

TCM (EASTERN) TREATMENT

The first treatment principle (23 March 2018) was to tonify kidney yin:

I used Seirin B needles 0,20x15mm for this session and decided to use the balanced method plus one needle on the face.

**Kid6 left:** good point against seizures during night, nourishes Yin, against epilepsy, calms the mind  
**Bl40 right:** he sea and earth point of bladder meridian, against phlegm, master point caudal back and good for stifle issues (owner wanted to improve the knee in the same session)  
**Si8 left:** mirror point of knee (was a-shi), good point for epilepsy, resolve damp heat  
**Ht7 right:** calms mind, source point, good for cardiac issues, calms the shen, clears the channels  
**GV20:** for brain issues and calming the mind for the first session

26/3/2017

Second session  
Willy did not make another crisis  
He seems more relaxed for the owner. No other significant changes are noticed.  
At my exam tongue seems a little bit more lavender than first time.  
Only back-shu kidney were sensitive on right side with blinking of right eye.  
Sensation of a "hole" in BL23 still present but less. I used the same needles except for the back (0,25x25mm)  

**Liv3 left:** liver source point, helps liver in its function of making Qi flow  
**Gb34 right:** master point of tendons and ligaments, helps liver in its function to make Qi flow smoothly  
**Si8 ashi:** he-sea point, calms the mind and good against epilepsy, would benefit pain in opposite hind leg knee pain  
**Ht7 right:** calms the mind and benefits the heart function (heart murmur)  
In this case I added other points which I choose for their specific action, that is why this combination is not balanced this time  
**GB20 bilateral:** dispel internal and external wind and dispel wind heat and wind cold  
2 **BL23** (with Cloud and Dragon needles 0,25x25mm): raise kidney yin and benefits the brain
Third session 24 April 2018: still no crisis for Willy! He seems more active during the day, sleeps better without dreaming at loud and owners seems very happy about improvement.

At the exam still “hole sensation” in Bl23, blinking of right eye when pushing on BL23, I saw this time some small cracks in the tongue so I decided to nourish yin.

**Kid6**: nourishes Yin, cooks blood, calms the mind, good point against epilepsy

**Gb39**: influential point of the marrow, against brain issues, good for any kidney yin deficiency problem

**Bl23 bil**: Association (shu) point for the Kidney. Tonifies kidney yin, strengthens brain, benefits the mind

**2xGb20**: dispels internal and external wind, dispels wind heat and wind cold, against brain problems

1 June 2018

Willy came back for a session. He has never shown crisis again, but owner wanted to continue treatment. Willy is more relaxed since crisis has disappeared. He did not limp anymore.

The TCM exam was perform and almost all the cracks on the tongue had been gone. The sensitivity of BL23 is almost absent and I had to push hard on it to provoke the "blinking reflex" again.

I admit I used the same points because my TCM exam did not lead me to another choice and Willy responded so well to last treatment and felt so comfortable with it that I did not « pick » other choices...

**Kid6**: cf up

Gb39: cf up

Gb20 bilateral: cf up

Ht7: heart source point to benefit heart fonction (heart murmur) and calm the mind

Si8 because was A-shi: he-sea point, earth and sedation point, resolves dampness, calms the mind, epilepsy and would help pain in opposite hind leg knee

**DISCUSSION**

Seizures results from abnormal brain activity leading to neurologic symptoms. Seizures commonly fall into two categories: generalized (grand mal) or partial (focal). Generalized seizures commonly appear as involuntary jerking or twitching movements in all four limbs with loss of consciousness. Partial seizures may involve one limb, side of the body, or face. Partial seizures may progress to generalized seizures. Seizures may also result in abnormal behavior, vocalization, salivation, chomping/chewing, and involuntary urination and defecation.

Seizures have been classified many times but if we choose the classification by the cause, we can divide seizures in 2 categories:

Idiopathic seizures: of unknow origin, even if genetic influence is suspected due to the bigger frequency in some breeds:
These seizures most commonly occur the first time between 0.6 to 6 years (9 years for others authors).

Epileptiform crisis which manifest like idiopathic seizure but where a cause can be found: intracranial (trauma, tumors, infectious, vascular) or extracranial or reactive seizures (occurring as a natural response from the normal brain to a transient disturbance in function (metabolic or toxic)).

Due to his age (10 years old) at the first crisis, we decided with the owner to search a cause for Willy's seizures prior to start any treatment. We were very anxious about an eventual brain tumor. Fortunately for Willy all the tests were negative so traditional treatment was started.

Usual eastern treatments for epilepsy consists on oral medication to prevent the crisis (phenobarbital, kalium bromure, Imépitoïne,...) and Valium (intra-rectal or intra-nasal) during the crisis if they last too long.

For Willy we choose Imépitoïne which seems to be the best option due to his age. It gave good result and slow down frequency of crisis to one in two weeks. Then we decided to add Epileptyl (homeopathic drug) which leads to one crisis a month. Willy was very stressed by this crisis so owners decided to start acupuncture to relax Willy, help decreasing frequency of crisis and to help Willy for his right hind leg pain.

In TCM, Ancient Texts (Yellow Emperor) said "without phlegm there is no epilepsy" Modern approach of TCM says seizures are considered to be associated with Internal Wind. Here are multiple primary patterns or étiologies that are associated with this condition, most of them including the liver (Liver Heat, Liver Yang Rising, Liver Blood Deficiency and Liver Yin Deficiency) or the kidney (Kidney Yin deficiency).

In the case of Willy, almost all the symptoms lead me to kidney yin deficiency leading to heat leading finally to internal Wind affecting the brain (thin tongue, preferring cold places, sticky mucosaes, kidney ting and back-shu and mu points reactivity), so I decided for the first session to raise up kidney yin and for the others sessions adding points to clear Wind.

The way he responded so well to the treatment made me think that my hypothesis was right.

Lack of yin in the body leads to heat flaring up and creating wind.
The only thing in the history who was giving me some doubts was the timing of the crisis: always between 2 to 3 AM: the liver time, when the flow of Qi is at its maximum on the Liver.
My explanation is that kidney yin (water element) is too poor to cool down the son (liver: wood element) which could lead to liver heat and facilitate the wind to appear more easily at this hour.

I choose for first session to start with GV20 to calm the mind of Willy for his first session (GV20 is an excellent point for brain issues too), then I treated kidney yin deficiency first with kid6 and to balance this point with 3 others with Dr Tan's technique. Kid6 is a great point to raise yin. Bl40 was chosen to balance and for its action as a he-sea point and earth point, releasing dampness, and for the knee issue. I balanced with HT7 to calm the shen and as a source point of the heart because of the heart murmur. And finally SI8 who was a-shi, probably reflecting the pain in contolateral hind leg and which is also a he-sea point, good for resolving dampness and known as a point against epilepsy.

ABOUT BALANCED METHOD:

Balance Method Acupuncture is an advanced system of Acupuncture that is over 2500 years old. Its foundations are based upon the philosophies of the Ba Gua, an eastern philosophy based upon mathematics; and the I Ching, one of the oldest books in the world that utilizes the Ba Gua philosophy. The concepts introduced by the I Ching & Ba Gua philosophy allow mathematical systems to be fully integrated into our view of reality. Balance Method Acupuncture is also known as, I Ching Acupuncture, Distal Acupuncture, & Dr. Tan Style Acupuncture.

One of Mark's teachers, Dr. Richard Tan, introduced him to a system of acupuncture called Balance Method Acupuncture in 1997. A former Aerospace Engineer and trained in Martial Arts as a child, Dr. Tan truly embodies the "old school" combining with the "new school". Using his traditional knowledge handed down to him by his teachers as a kid; learning martial arts, the classics, and chinese medicine from his father and other teachers; he coupled this with his college engineering background, creating a system of acupuncture that is truly genius. This system of acupuncture is the most effective system of acupuncture for treating pain. Balance Method Acupuncture works immediately.

What makes Balance Method Acupuncture unique is that it provides the following:
A sense of Balance in your life.
85% success rate through a series of treatments.
Individual specific attention to your problem.
Needling done on Arms, Legs, & Head.
Faster overall recovery times.
Pain relief within seconds of needle insertion.

How Does Balance Method Strategies Work?
Oriental medicine is based on an energetic model rather than the bio-chemical model of Western medicine. Consequently, this energetic model relies on a check and balance system to keep the body in optimum health. Each one of the body’s organs and corresponding channel or meridian is connected to others via a complex network of inter-relationships. Utilizing the knowledge of these relationships, your practitioner of Oriental medicine is able to achieve stronger, more effective treatments using either acupuncture, herbal medicine or both.

For the second session I decided to add liver in my treatment strategy due to the signs of stagnation on the tongue. Liv3 was choose against stagnation to make Qi move smoothly and release stagnation. Gb34 because it helps liver in its function of moving Qi smoothly, SI8 left elbow because was a-Shi to help opposite knee pain and because is a good point against epilepsy, Ht7 to calm the mind, Gb20 bilateral to expel Wind because epilepsy is wind, and Bl23 bilateral to raise kidney yin and against epilepsy. After the session the blinking of the eye disappeared!

On the third session I choose kid6 to raise the Yin, Gb39 which is influential point of marrow so would benefit the brain, the other points were the same as last session.

And when I saw Willy in June I choose the same points. He never showed seizures again, the limping has dissapeared and he is more quiet. The sensitivity of Bl23 right was always gone!

I did not pay much attention to the pain in the right hind leg of Willy, preferring addressing a clear message to the body of the dog against seizure. But owner insisted so I choose one point in miror (SI8) which is also a good point against epilepsy.

Dog is still under treatment
Addendum 2

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Analyse : V11494173  
concernant : Chien Willy  
demandée par le Docteur : SIMON-BLAISE-DELPIRE  
en date du : 23/11/2017  
Référence : V11494173

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