Veterinary Acupuncture Using the Balance Method to Treat
Skin Conditions in Horses

Antonio A Alfaro, DVM, MSc., MSc-TCVM, CBMS & ELP

The skin is the natural enclosing barrier, it establishes the boundaries between the Interior
and the Exterior of the organism. It functions as an immunologic surveillance and protector
against external and internal pathogen invasion.

Wind, Heat, Dampness, parasites, food, or drug allergy are usual external pathogens
while Blood stagnation, Blood Heat, Blood Deficiency, Lung Yin Deficiency and Liver and
Kidney Yin Deficiencies are among the Internal causative ones.

The Lung controls the surface of the whole body, the skin, the hair, and the sweat glands.
Been part of Metal in the 5 Element, the Large Intestine pairs with the Lung in this function. The
Spleen could also be part of an external expression from an internal disorder, since SP Qi
Deficiency will not support the hair follicles.12,13

Kidney Essence has its manifestation in the quality of the skin and hair, and it is well
known that most chronic illness will generate some degree of Liver and Kidney Deficiency that
will manifest as skin conditions such as Chronic Dermatoses, dray and flake skin like at scrotum
and hypochondrial areas itching in the case of the Liver Yin/Blood Deficiencies.12,13

Patterns seen are usually related to Wind, Heat, Dampness and Blood Deficiency.
Lesions could affect the Upper Jiao as Wind or Wind/Heat, the Middle Jiao as Qi Stagnation or
Heat/Fire, and the Lower Jiao as Damp/Heat or Cold-Damp. Combinations such as Wind/Heat,
Wind/Dryness due to Blood Deficiency, Cold/Damp, Damp/Heat, Heat/Toxin, extreme
Heat/Toxin are common. They are usually translated as Itching, Urticaria, Pain, Dandruff, and
Erosions with Odor for example.12,13

Many lesions are usually first manifested in the head, around the lips and below the eyes.
So, consideration is given to the path of the Channels such as LI and ST.

For the Balance Method (BM) Veterinary Practitioner, the regions affected in the body
could easily be related to the quadrants seen in the Ying or Nutritious Cycle or the Circadian
Clock. The patterns are called Taiyin/Yangming (LU, LI, ST, SP), Shaoyin/Taiyang (HT, SI, BL,
KID) and Jueyin/Shaoyang (PC, TH, GB, LIV). They do also represent the front of the body, the
back, and the sides respectively.1 For very specific skin lesions located in the front of the body
from head to frontal ventral skin and comprising also the front and internal areas of the thoracic
and pelvic limbs, the BM is going to use the first pattern, if in the whole back or torso then the
second pattern and if in the sides of the body and extremities then the third pattern. Here, the author is going to explain only the first pattern since one can easily see that the Metal Element is there and by balancing the Metal one will take care of the whole skin surface. 1-12

Objective:
1. To describe the bases of the Veterinary Balance Method Acupuncture in treating skin problems in Horses.