

Traditional Oriental Medicine

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Economic Affairs Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
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Dear Economic Affairs Interim Committee,

Thank you for your careful evaluation and concern regarding chiropractors adding dry needling to their practice through an Administrative Rule change, rather than properly expanding their scope through a Statutory change.

Dry needling (no longer "trigger point" dry needling), is absolutely the practice of acupuncture, with very few hours of training. One seminar in Bozeman last fall was a 3-day, 18-hour course. I can assure you that 18 hours is woefully inadequate to learn how to safely diagnose and treat using a modality completely outside the training of chiropractors. Acupuncturists require hundreds of hours of direct supervision before ever treating a patient.

Dry needling is a small subset of acupuncture, but it still requires the insertion of an acupuncture needle. Current scientific studies and research prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the insertion of an acupuncture needle promotes and activates the nervous and vascular systems of the body. Not only is the local area affected, but neural transmissions carry the signal and response away from the local needling. This beautifully explains the wonderful effects of acupuncture over the past 3000 to 5000 years of practice.

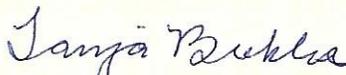
I've seen information that practitioners performing dry needling are expanding the areas in which they insert needles. For example, needling a leg point for a shoulder problem. They are also adding electrical stimulation to the needles. I had a patient receiving dry needling and electrical stimulation from a physical therapist directly over the metal of partial hip replacement. The metal oxidized causing metal to leak into the bone of the hip socket. This patient developed metal toxicity, and required a total hip replacement. My argument is that they don't know what they don't know, which is very dangerous when working in a medical field.

It is my strong opinion that they are practicing acupuncture, and doing so with absolutely inadequate training.

I understand that different fields of medicine continue to grow and expand their skill sets, and that different practices can overlap. However, the reason that acupuncture has been proven to be so safe, is due to the extensive teaching and training acupuncturists receive in acupuncture school. I don't think a chiropractor would feel that an 18-hour, 3-day weekend course would give me the proper skill set to start offering spinal adjustments to my patients, and I would have to agree with that.

Thank you again for your dedication to protecting and looking out for the safety and well-being of the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,



Tanja Brekke, L.Ac.



Acupuncture Sports Medicine Herbology Acupressure

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