

EQUINE VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE & CHIROPRACTIC WHAT, WHEN & WHO?

Ed Boldt, Jr., DVM

Performance Horse Complementary
Medicine Svc

Fort Collins, CO



Complementary

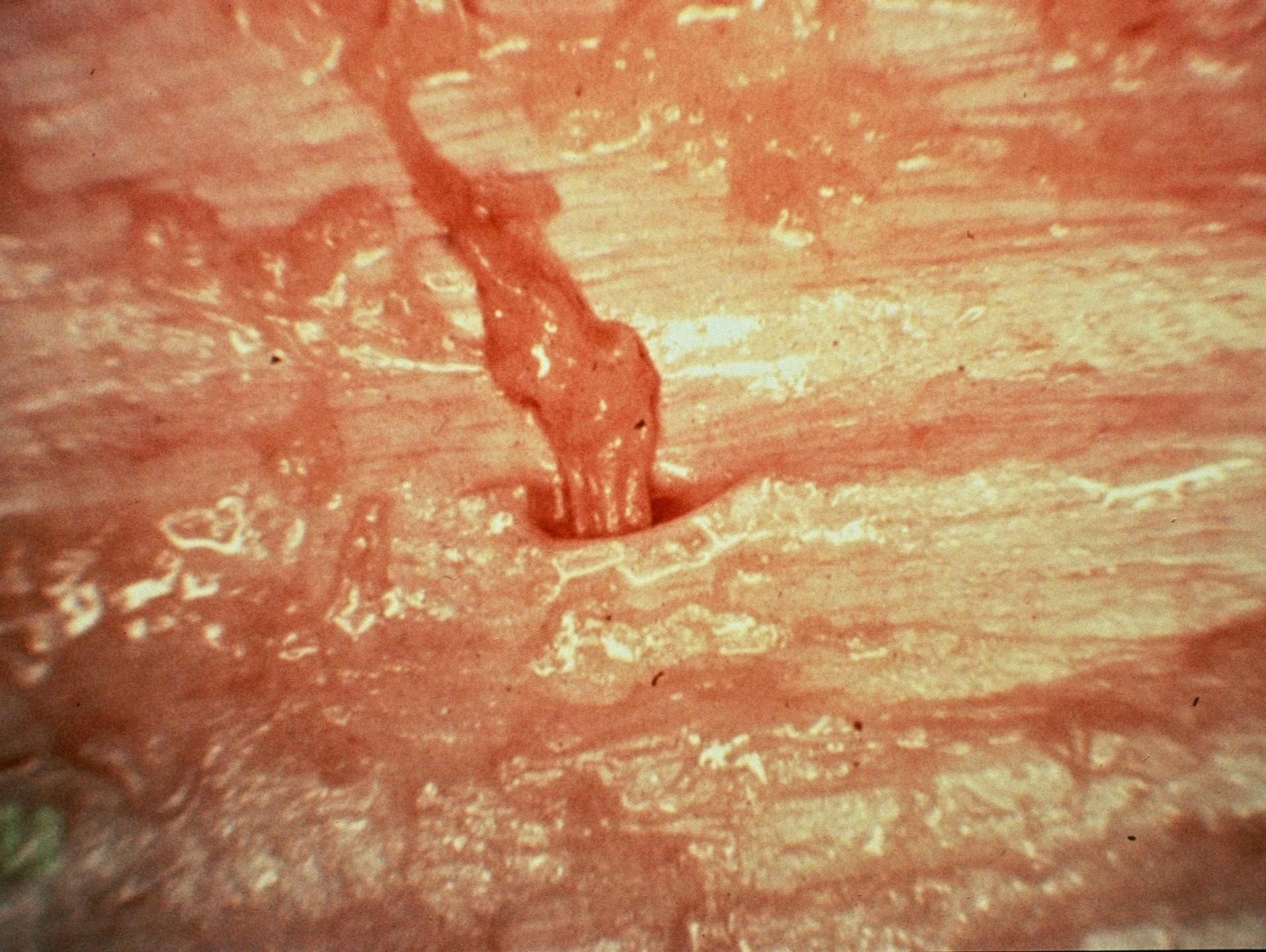
NOT ALTERNATIVE



What Are Acupuncture & Chiropractic?

- Acupuncture –
 - Insertion of needles at predetermined sites
 - Interaction between nervous, endocrine and immune system
 - Trigger Points





What Are Acupuncture & Chiropractic?

- Chiropractic –
 - Joint dysfunction affecting neurological balance seen in healthy animal
 - Motor unit
 - Controlled forces applied to specific areas to induce changes in joint
 - Short lever



Signs/Symptoms

- **Acupuncture** – pain or reactivity on palpation of acupuncture or trigger points
 - Sensitivity
 - Hot
 - Cold
 - Firm
 - Soft



Signs/Symptoms

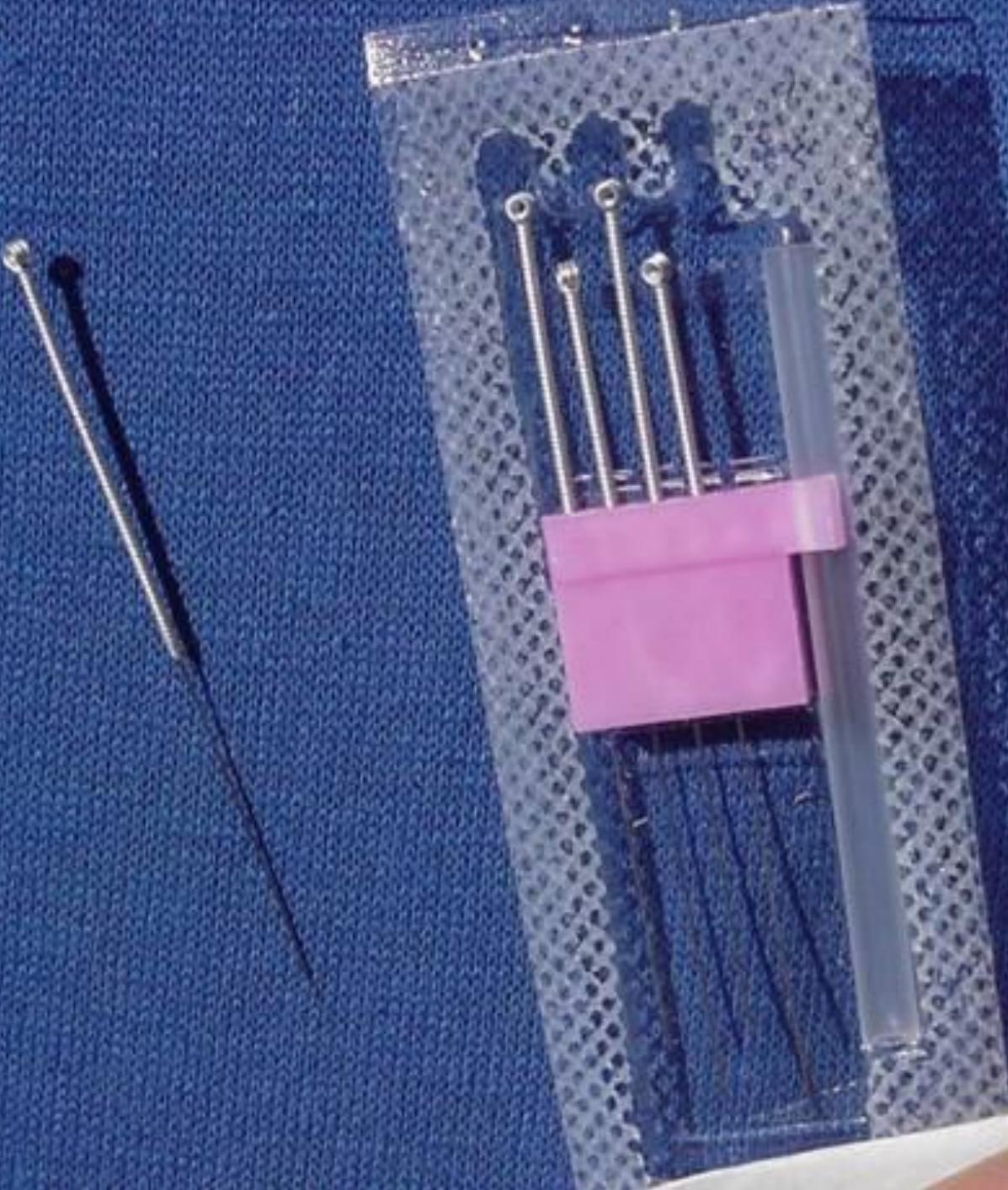
- **Chiropractic** – various signs
 - Abnormal posture
 - Saddle issues
 - Unusual gait
 - Inability to engage
 - Inability to round
 - Inability to bend

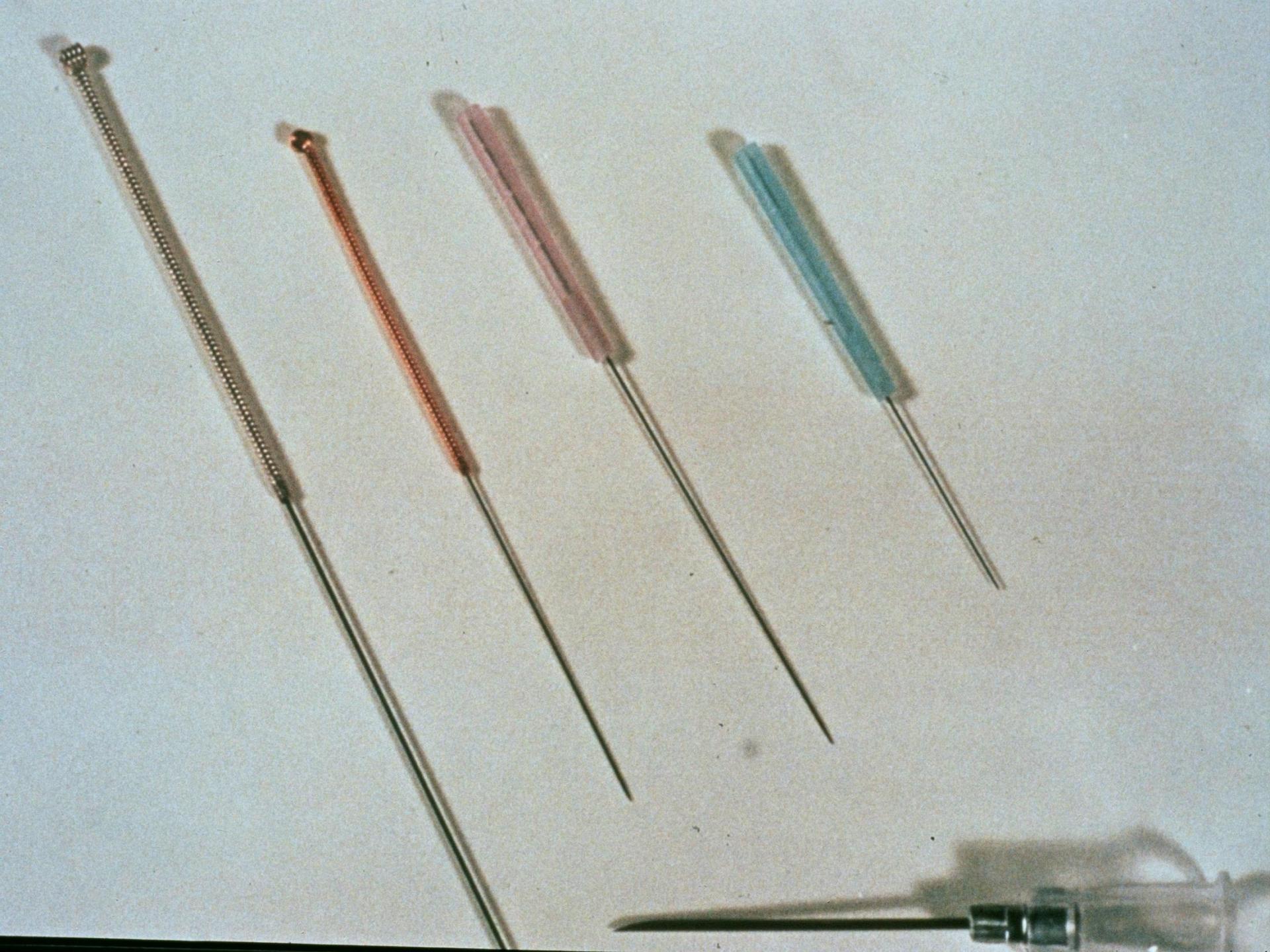


Acupuncture Techniques

- Dry needling
 - Human or veterinary acupuncture needles
 - Hypodermic needles











Acupuncture Techniques

- Aquapuncture
 - Vitamin B₁₂
 - Sterile Saline
 - Other Substances





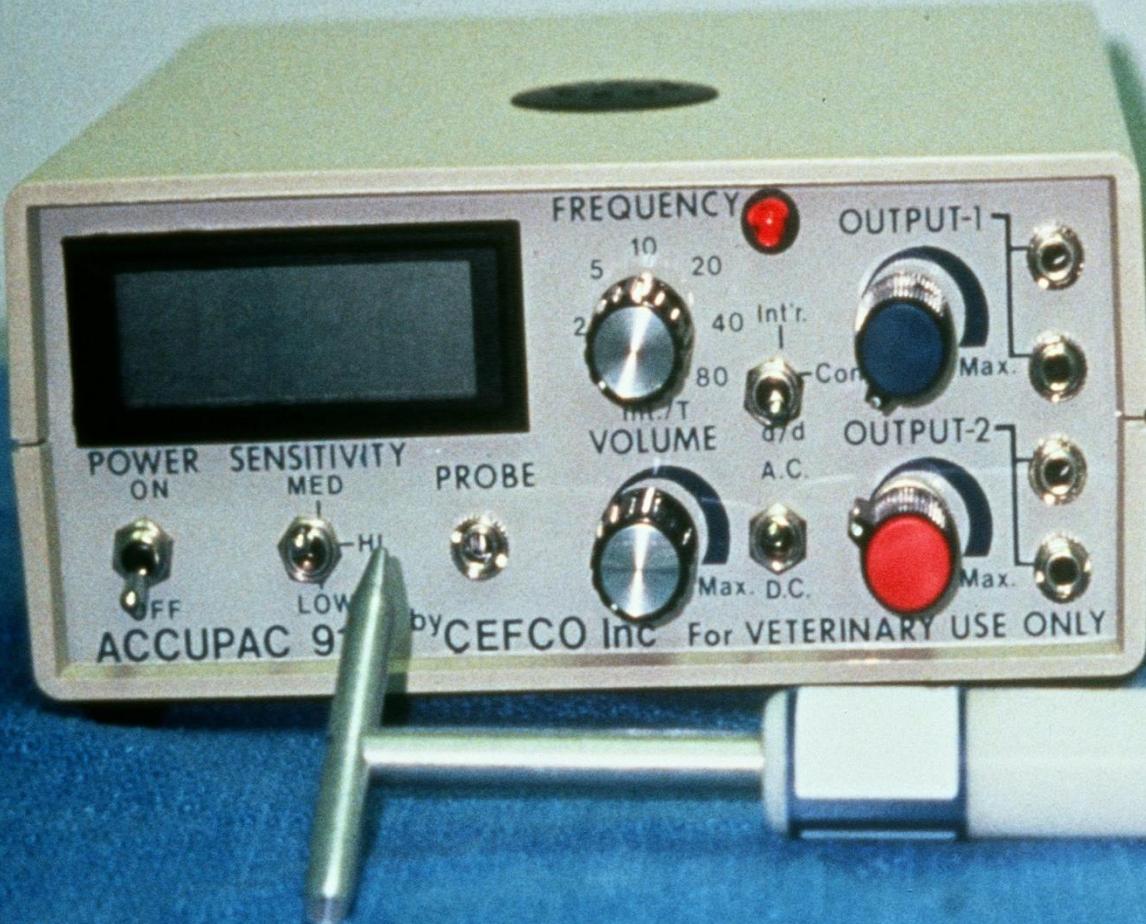




Acupuncture Techniques

- Electroacupuncture
 - Various units





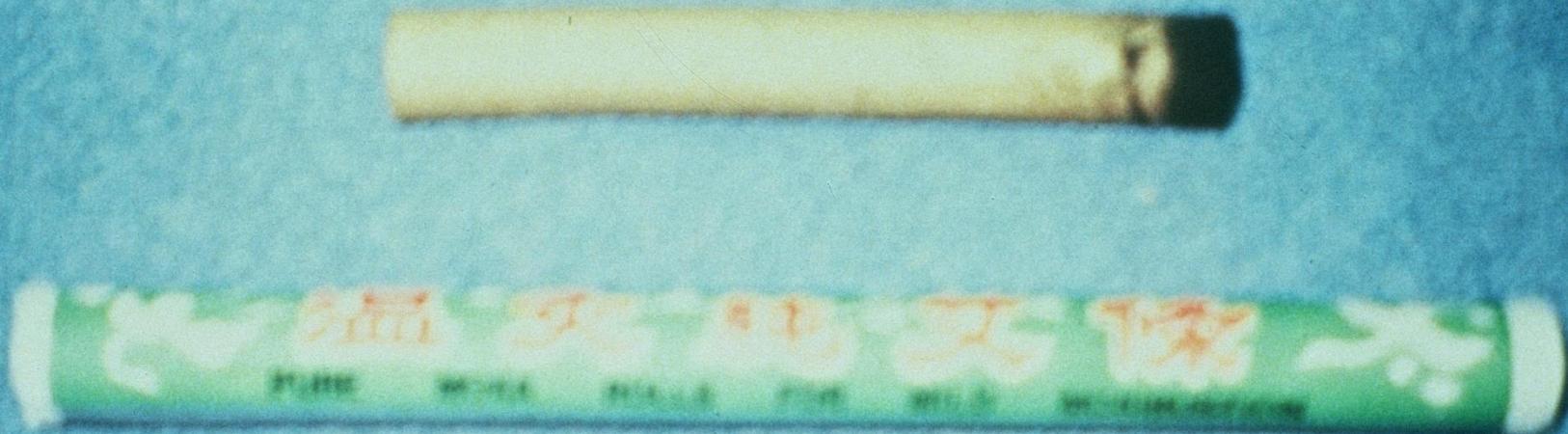
'94 9



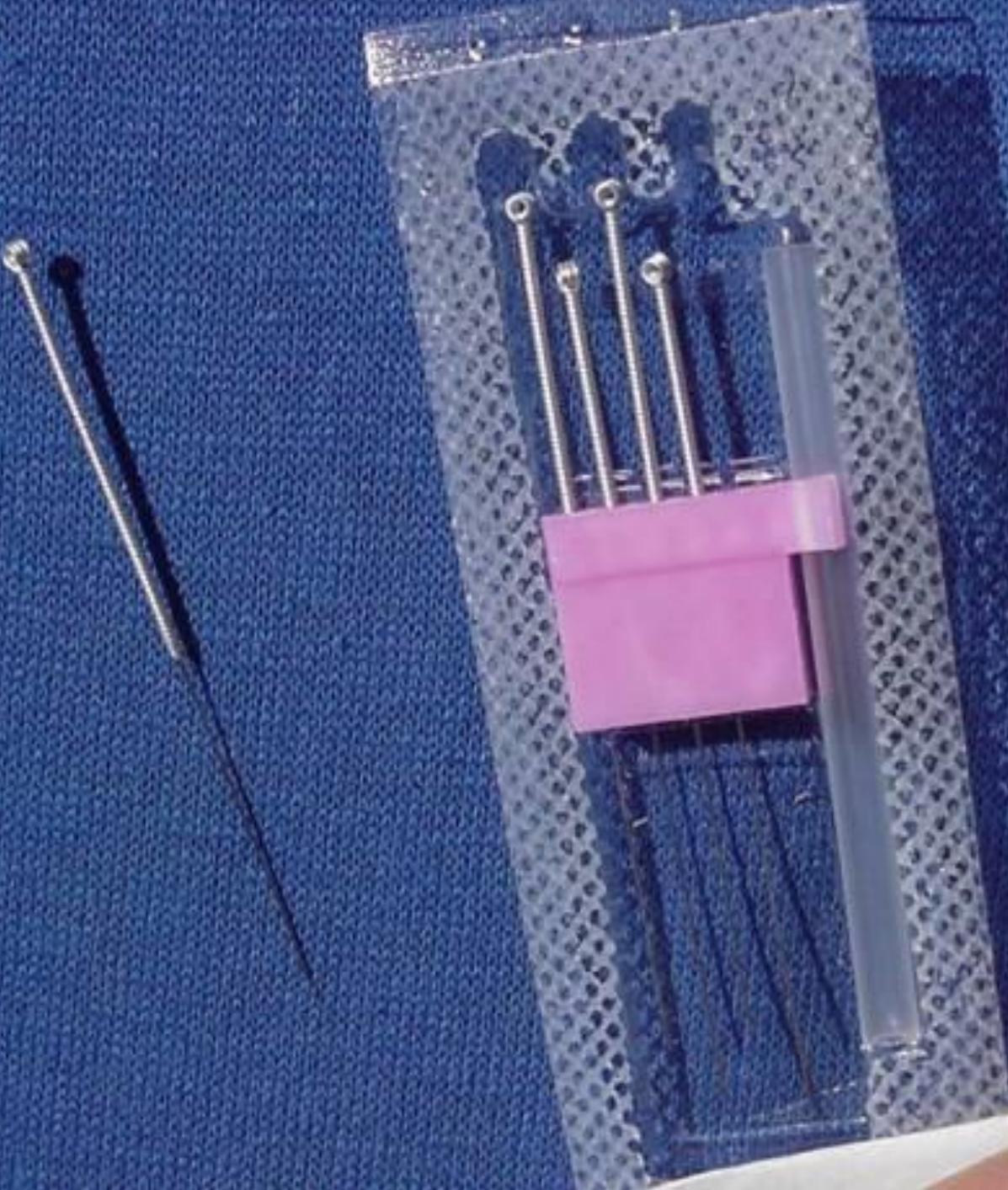
Acupuncture Techniques

- Moxibustion
 - *Artemisia vulgaris* - “Mugwort”
 - Direct / Indirect





94 9





Acupuncture Techniques

- Cold Laser – Class III or IV
- Infra-red Stimulator









Acupuncture Techniques

- Implants
 - Gold beads
 - Gold wire
 - Suture material
 - Skin Staples



Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam



Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam

- Event / Use
- History
- Walk/Trot



Acupuncture and Chiropractic Exam

- Palpate Acupuncture Points
- Palpate for Trigger Points
- Motion Palpation













Acupuncture Point Reactivity

Diagnostic Aid

- Reactivity at certain acupuncture points in combination
- All points must be reactive



Common Equine Problems:

When Could Use of Acupuncture
and Chiropractic Be Helpful



Musculoskeletal Problems

- Caudal Heel Pain / Navicular
- Laminitis
- Arthritis
- Stifle
- Tendinitis / Desmitis



Musculoskeletal Problems

- Thoracolumbar pain
- Lumbosacral / Sacropelvic Issues
- Cervical / Atlantooccipital
- Temporomandibular Joint



Neurological Problems

- Wobbler Syndrome
- Facial Paralysis
- Headshaking / Trigeminal Neuralgia
- Other Nerve Paralysis
- Spinal Cord Trauma



Respiratory Problems

- Roarer (Left Laryngeal Hemiplegia)
- Heaves / COPD
- Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage



GI Problems

- Colic – San Jiang
- Post-op Ileus
- Gastric Ulcers
- Inappetance



Ophthalmic Problems

- Recurrent Uveitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Non-responsive Corneal Ulcers



Dermatological Problems



Behavior Problems



Saddle Fit Issues



WHO?

- Should seek a Veterinarian trained in acupuncture and chiropractic
- IVAS and AVCA

