

Science of Tapping: An Updated Summary of Scientific Published Studies

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The Science of Tapping: The Current State of Scientific Evidence

Purpose

This white paper is based upon the effort of many contributors in the attempt to scour the scientific literature in order to provide the most current database of Energy Psychology (EP) and Tapping research (including techniques such as Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT), Thought Field Therapy (TFT), Matrix Reimprinting (MR), and selected others. There are of course a wide range of studies that fall under the category of EP that do not include "tapping" or meridian acupressure application that we have decided not to include in this compendium. It would be impossible to guarantee that every single paper worldwide has been listed here, but through literature review mechanisms, we believe it to be one of the most comprehensive sources available. This list includes a wide range of studies from Meta-analyses, Randomized Control Trials, Clinical Outcome Studies, Case Reports, Dissertations, Theoretical and Review Articles, Published Commentaries, and more.

We have attempted to categorize studies that address different conditions/situations most accurately, as well as include the same study in multiple categories if the paper addresses multiple conditions. The decision on how to categorize each study is a subjective one and we have done our best to accomplish this challenging task.

Its purpose is to provide an accurate and complete resource for professionals to use to educate the clinical and academic worlds, as well as the general public as to the current state of reviewable scientific evidence, and to demonstrate the depth and breadth of published Tapping research.

This collection of research is being published in conjunction with the documentary film, *The Science of Tapping*.

For further information on the current state of Tapping research, please visit <u>www.Scienceof-Tapping.org</u>.

For further resources on Tapping Training programs, please visit the EFT Tapping Training Institute at www.EFTTappingTraining.com.

Thank You,

Craig Weiner, DC, and Alina Frank The Science of Tapping Project

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Tapping Research Summary

According to the most current data search reported by ACEP: **Over 350 studies, review articles and meta-analyses have been published in professional, peer-reviewed journals.** This is the most up to date summary to the best of our knowledge up until July 2023.

Research Overview

- Over 80 randomized controlled trials.
- · Over 75 clinical outcome studies.
- Randomized controlled trials using biologic or genetic outcome measures document positive outcomes for EP methods.
- 3 fMRI studies document neurological changes after energy psychology interventions.
- 5 meta-analyses show effective treatment for depression, anxiety and PTSD.
- Studies show 86% of veterans no longer had PTSD symptoms when treated with energy psychology. It's 2x as effective and 2x faster than prolonged exposure therapy.
- · 9 systematic reviews of EP modalities.
- 15 comparative reviews of (comparing EP and other therapies). *All reviews document EP effectiveness.*
- 8 studies comparing CBT and EP show that Energy Psychology is either equivalent to or more effective than CBT. And in several studies, EP achieved results in significantly less time.

Acronym key for organizations and modalities

- ACEP: Association of Comprehensive Energy Psychology
- CBT: Cognitive Behavior Therapy
- CSACTS: Combined Somatic and Cognitive Therapies
- EDMR: Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing
- EP: Energy Psychology
- NICE: National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
- NREPP: National Repertory of Evidence Based Practices and Procedures
- PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- TFT: Thought Field Therapy

Milestones

- ACEP and AAMET/EFT International made a joint submission of the research evidence for EFT and TFT as treatments for PTSD to NICE in the UK. NICE has created a specific category for EFT, TFT and SACTS, and acknowledged that they are "worthy of further research."
- In 2016, TFT was validated by NREPP, a division of SAMHSA, a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the U.S., as an evidence-based treatment.
- In 2017, the U.S. Veterans Administration added EFT to List 2, approving it as a "generally safe therapy." Next is getting added to List 1, which is a list of approved treatments.
- In 2019, EFT was approved for use within the South Korean medical system.
- There are over 400 identified forms of psychotherapy, many of which have little or no research to validate them. EP is both evidence-based and in the top 10% in terms of published research for psychotherapy modalities.

Multiple research studies have shown these methods can be used effectively for working with Anxiety, Depression, Food cravings, Pain, Trauma, and PTSD. The evidence base for energy psychology/tapping continues to grow in quantity and quality (methodological rigor).

- 2000 2012: 18 randomized controlled trials.
- As of 2016: 45 randomized controlled trials.
- 2014 2018: 5 meta-analyses document efficacy for EP methods.
- · 2017 2018:
 - 2 randomized control trials using biologic or genetic outcome measures document positive outcomes for EP methods.
 - NICE (UK) acknowledged the body of EFT research, deeming it worthy of government funding and in economic modeling indicated it was highly cost effective.
 - EFT has been approved as "generally safe" by the US Veterans Administration.

· 2019 - 2022:

- 3 fMRI studies document neural changes after EFT.
- Blue Knot Foundation for (trauma) includes EFT in PTSD clinical guidelines in Australia.
- EFT approved under the National Insurance Disability Scheme (NDIS) for therapy in Australia.
- Australian Psychological Society features EFT during National Psychology Week as emerging approach for pain.
- · APA journal (USA) published EFT cortisol replication study.
- A major review of psychological treatments for PTSD EP (combined somatic/cognitive therapies) was
 the second most effective at reducing PTSD symptoms at the end of treatment to waitlist (after EMDR
 which was found to be most effective). Further, energy psychology had the greatest cost savings over
 no treatment, followed by EMDR, trauma-focused CBT and then other treatments.
- 2 studies show significant drops in cortisol with EFT.
- Research documents physiological and immunological changes and gene expression with EP methods.
- · Randomized controlled trials now total 80+.
- 2 studies show significant drops in cortisol with EFT Research documents physiological and immunological changes and gene expression with EP methods.

Our appreciation and acknowledgment to John Freedom and ACEP (<u>www.energypsych.org</u>) for tabulating this summary.

Research Definitions

Meta-analysis: Thoroughly examine a number of valid studies on a topic and mathematically combine the results using accepted statistical methodology to report the results as if it were one large study.

Systematic Reviews: Scholarly articles that focus on a clinical topic and answer a specific question. An extensive literature search is conducted to identify studies with sound methodology. The studies are reviewed, assessed for quality, and the results summarized according to the predetermined criteria of the review question.

Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials: Carefully planned experiments that introduce a treatment or exposure to study its effect on real patients. They include methodologies that reduce the potential for bias (randomization and blinding) and that allow for comparison between intervention groups and control (no intervention) groups. A randomized controlled trial is a planned experiment and can provide sound evidence of cause and effect.

Uncontrolled Outcome Study: A clinical study that lacks a comparison (i.e., a control) group.

Survey Studies of Practitioner Observations: A phenomenological study exploring practitioners' observations and experiences.

Clinical Case Study: A formal report which uses established pre- and post-intervention assessments with one subject and details one or more treatment variables.

Systematic Observational Report: An informal outcome report describing the course of treatment using a single therapeutic approach with multiple subjects.

Anecdotal Report: An incomplete description of the medical and treatment history of one or more patients. Anecdotal reports may be published in places other than peer-reviewed, scientific iournals.

Theoretical and Review Articles: Scholarly articles which discuss theoretical considerations and plausible mechanisms of action for a treatment approach, review existing research studies, and/or discuss clinical applications based on these studies.

Adapted from: National Institutes of Health; Duke University School of Medicine; and APA Journal, *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training:* "Energy Psychology: A Review of the Preliminary Evidence" (Feinstein, 2008).

Research Archive

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