

Therapeutic Tapping (aka Emotional Freedom Technique)



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Summary: Therapeutic tapping (aka Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT)) is a technique for helping with stress and anxiety that involves tapping on acupressure points on the body.

Introduction



Therapeutic tapping is a technique that may be helpful in conditions such as stress, anxiety and depression (Church, 2012; Feinstein, 2012; Clond, 2016).

It involves using your fingers to tap on various points on the head and upper body.

Evidence for therapeutic tapping is still growing. There is less evidence for therapeutic tapping compared to other evidence-based treatments such as cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) or medication.

On the other hand, advantages include:

- It can be easily learned
- You can do therapeutic tapping on yourself or on a loved one (such as a child or youth); I
- It doesn't cost anything (compared to treatments such as psychotherapy)
- It carries no side effects (compared to treatments such as medication).

How to do Therapeutic Tapping



Here is a video that shows how to do therapeutic tapping: "How to Tap with Jessica Ortner: Emotional Freedom

Technique Informational Video" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAclBdj20ZU

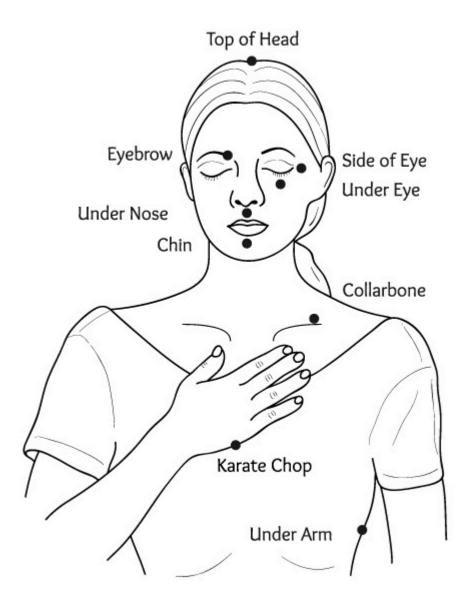
Therapeutic Tapping in 5 Steps

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Note that sometimes, your issue is a behaviours, only your reaction. So if can try to improve your reaction, "No. 100 and 10 and 10 and 10, if 0 you see later on, if the tapping has 100 and 10 and 1	(e.g. anxiety, stress, worry about exams, etc.) related to another person's behaviour. But you can't change other people's f your issue is "my boss acts like a jerk", you can't change that however, you fly issue is staying calm when my boss is challenging." is no stress and 10 is the most stress, how stressful is the issue? This helps
 Acknowledging the issues Accepting yourself despite th 	
Write down set up phrase below:	though I have this [fear or problem], I accept myself."
Problem acknowledgement	"Even though I have this problem with"
Positive affirmation	"I love and accept myself" Insert any other positives you want to reinforce here as well
	through the various acupressure meridian points. reminder phrase the reminder phrase is just a quick phrase that reminds you ase is this:
• "Even though I have anxiety	when I leave my house, I accept myself,"
Your reminder phrase could simply My reminder phrase is	

Diagram of Tapping Points

After doing a sequence of tapping, rate your stress/distress from 0 to 10.

5. Rate your stress/ distress level



Where to Find Therapeutic Tapping

Are you interested in seeing a health care professional for therapeutic tapping?

Therapeutic tapping is not as widely known as other types of evidence-treatments plus there are many who are skeptical about the technique.

Nonetheless, there may be health professionals that offer therapeutic tapping in your area. It is generally recommended to seek out services from registered health professionals (e.g. social workers, psychologists, registered psychotherapists). The reason for this is that if you have problems with services, then you can contact their regulatory college or body in order to have your concerns addressed.

Summary

Therapeutic tapping is an intervention that may possibly be helpful for stress and anxiety. It does not have the same evidence base as other treatments, but it is simple and easy to do, and worth trying to see if it might be helpful in your situation.

References

Church D. et al.: Brief Group Intervention Using Emotional Freedom Techniques for Depression in College Students: A Randomized Controlled Trial, Depress Res Treat. 2012; 2012: 257172. Published online 2012 Jul 17. doi:

10.1155/2012/257172

Clond Morgan: Emotional Freedom Techniques for Anxiety, J. of Nervous and Mental Disease: May 2016 - Volume 204 - Issue 5 - p 388-395. doi: 10.1097/NMD.0000000000000483

https://journals.lww.com/jonmd/Abstract/2016/05000/Emotional_Freedom_Techniques_for_Anxiety__A.9.aspx Feinstein D: Acupoint stimulation in treating psychological disorders: Evidence of efficacy. Review of General Psychology, 16, 364-380. doi:10.1037/a0028602

For More Information

EFT International

https://eftinternational.org/d...

Evidence-based EFT

https://www.evidencebasedeft.c...

Website of Gary Craig, the founder of the 'Emotional Freedom Technique'

https://www.emofree.com/

Jennifer Ortner

Video demonstrating therapeutic tapping.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAclBdj20ZU

About this Document

Written by the eMentalHealth Team.

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