

# Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists

#### **Shoulder**

Evidence highlights positive effects on patients with shoulder pain, including increased ROM, reduction in medication, reduction in pain and increase in function.

### **Tennis Elbow**

Evidence suggests that acupuncture is effective in short-term relief of pain related to tennis elbow. As well as reduction in pain, acupuncture may result in increased function and increased maximal strength.

### Knee

High-quality evidence supports the use of acupuncture to reduce osteoarthritic knee pain.

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Acupuncture is especially effective at reducing pain in both acute (Lee et al. 2013) and chronic (Xu et al. 2013) low back pain and the effects can last up to 6 months (Kim et al. 2013).

The body's own painkillers are released; neurotransmitters such as endorphins, melatonin and serotonin are produced when acupuncture needles stimulate various physiological mechanisms within the brain, spinal cord and peripheral tissues (Stein et al. 2001).

### Head

**Brain** 

Acupuncture can be effective at treating and preventing headaches and migraines and has similar, if not better, effects than medication with fewer side effects (Linde et al. 2009).

