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The living matrix: a model for the primary respiratory mechanism.

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Abstract

Presented here is a physiological model for the primary respiratory mechanism, palpable fluctuations in the tissues to which practitioners of cranial manipulation, visceral manipulation, and lymphatic drainage attribute healing effects. According to this model, the primary respiratory mechanism initiates metabolism and assures nutrients and waste products an efficient transit through the extracellular space. The extracellular matrix is an open, unstable system prone to changes of ionic concentration and macromolecular organization. The cells imbedded in the extracellular matrix are functionally coupled with it through integrins, receptors within the cell membrane. Integrins convey mechanotransduction: activation of intracellular enzyme systems and DNA through changes in extracellular electromechanical information. Utilizing the primary respiratory mechanism, clinicians effect improvements in varied conditions, some of which are reviewed.