EMOST™ biophysical treatments to reduce the risk of aggressive behaviour in prisons

Biophysical electromagnetic managements

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EMOST Redox 1.1 Medical Device (Certificate: HU11/6192) controlled by a personal computer.

1. Background

1.1. Prisoners

Testosterone, norepinephrine, serotonin, glucose metabolism, and the aggression

Many studies on testosterone activity show a relation between high plasma levels and a tendency towards aggression. It was suggested that the interaction between low serotonin and high testosterone concentrations in the central nervous system has an important effect on the neural mechanisms involved in the expression of aggressive behavior. It seems that testosterone modulates serotonergic receptor activity that directly affects aggression, fear and anxiety. In addition, violent criminals have abnormalities in their glucose metabolism as indicated by decreased glucose uptake in their prefrontal cortex and a low blood glucose nadir in the glucose tolerance test. Low non-oxidative metabolism can be a crucial component in the pathophysiology of habitually violent behavior among subjects with antisocial personality disorder. The level of norepinephrine is also higher in aggressive prisoners than in moderately aggressive jailed inmates, which suggests a pronounced role of norepinephrine in the formation the aggressive behavior.

Sleep problems and aggression

Clinical studies revealed that sleep problems can be a contributory factor in the development of reactive aggression and violence. It seems that the relation between sleep problems and aggression can be mediated by the negative effect of sleep loss on prefrontal cortical working, namely the loss of control over emotions, including loss of the regulation of aggressive impulses to context- appropriate behavior. In addition, other potential contributing mechanisms connecting sleep problems to aggression and violence are most likely found within the central serotonergic and the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal-axis. Individual variation within these neurobiological systems may be responsible for amplified aggressive responses induced by sleep loss in certain individuals. Recent studies revealed that prisoners have higher levels of anxiety, sleep problems and depression than the general population.

Prefrontal malfunctions and aggression

Numerous researchers suggested that the relationship between prefrontal malfunctions and the likelihood of acting aggressively is mediated by the failure to adaptively use that we called the ‘‘executive cognitive functions’’. Executive functioning allows people to respond to situations in a flexible manner, to make and adapt plans, and to base their behavior on internally held ideas rather than being governed solely by external stimuli. There are neuroimaging data that the prefrontal cortex plays an important function in the successful identification of facial expressions of emotion. The medial prefrontal cortex is most consistently activated by emotional stimuli, suggesting it has an essential role in emotional processing. Recent *Transcranial magnetic stimulation* (TMS) experiments also support the hypothesis of inhibition deficits and frontal cortex dysfunction in violent offenders when compared with non-violent control subjects. These prefrontal structural and biochemical malfunctions can cause the low arousal, poor fear conditioning, lack of conscience, and decision-making deficits that predispose to antisocial and psychopathic behavior. It is very possible that many aggressive behaviors come about mainly automatically, emotionally, and through conditioned association with other stimuli.

1.2. Prison officers and the burnout

Prison officers are exposed to special and very powerful stressors. The effects of this dangerous work on mental health are complex. WHO (2005) is predicting that by 2020, stress can be a major cause of workplace ill health. It is well known that prolonged or intense stress can have a negative impact on an individual’s mental and physical health. Workers who are stressed are also more likely to be unhealthy, poorly motivated, less productive and less safe at work (WHO, 2003).

Prison officers are among the most stressful of all occupations. The risk of suicide among prison guards is 39% higher than the rest of the working age population. Prison officers - compared to the general population - have been found to have significantly lower life spans and higher rates of alcoholism, suicide, heart attacks, ulcers, and hypertension. Nowadays, officers have a high level of responsibility for the care, safety, security and rehabilitation of prisoners. In addition, there are large individual differences in the response to stress i.e. two prison officers can react in completely different ways to the same stressor.

Prison officers experience a number of negative feelings and attitudes leading to depleted emotional states (emotional exhaustion) such as burnout. The burnout is a tendency toward depersonalization, which occurs as employees become frustrated with their job and less concerned for their clients and results in increasingly negative work related attitudes. Maslach’s model of burnout characterizes emotional exhaustion as depletion of emotional energy and a feeling that one’s emotional resources are inadequate to deal with the situation.

2. EMOST (Electro-Magnetic-Own-Signal-Treatment) treatments

EMOST method and natural-based low-frequency and intensity electromagnetic signals

There has been increasing evidence about the health-promoting outcomes of low-frequency and intensity electromagnetic fields (LFI-EMFs) that are able to initiate different healing processes. EMOST medical device can detect non-linear, low-frequency and intensity bioelectric and bioelectromagnetic signals (as ECG or EEG signals) from subjects’ skin by unique flat input/output electrodes. The collected signals are processed by computer of EMOST apparatus. The subjects are treated by processed signals originated from apparatus (signal density between 1 Hz - 1 MHz; intensity range is in natural pA mV). A particular feature of EMOST method - compared to most of electromagnetic equipments - is that the subjects’ own bioelectro- bioelectromagnetic signals that are detected from skin can be processed in natural analogue mode (non-digitalized). The special analogous process makes it possible that the biophysical information content of detected and back-transmitted electro-electromagnetic signal is much larger than in digitized methods (Figure 1). Next, analogue signals are radiated back, using a flat electrode radiator through various signal density/signal combinations, with some signal amplification (-20dB- +60dB), to the skin’s surface on the opposite side and extended by the higher range sounds of the signal (Figure 2).

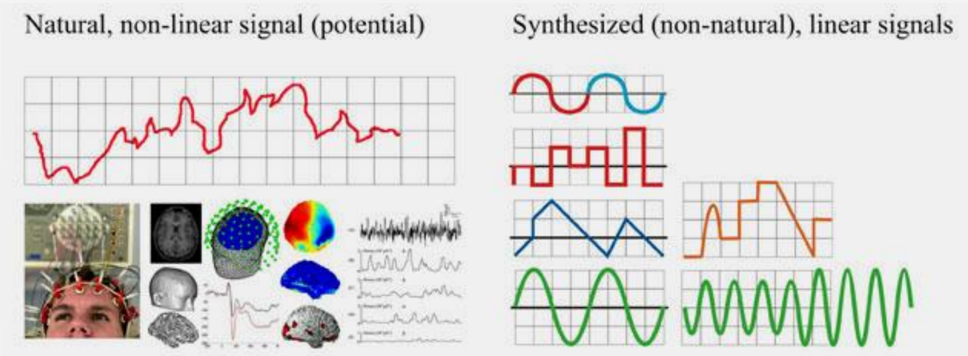

Figure 1. Differences of natural and synthesized (digilatized) signals, or impulses

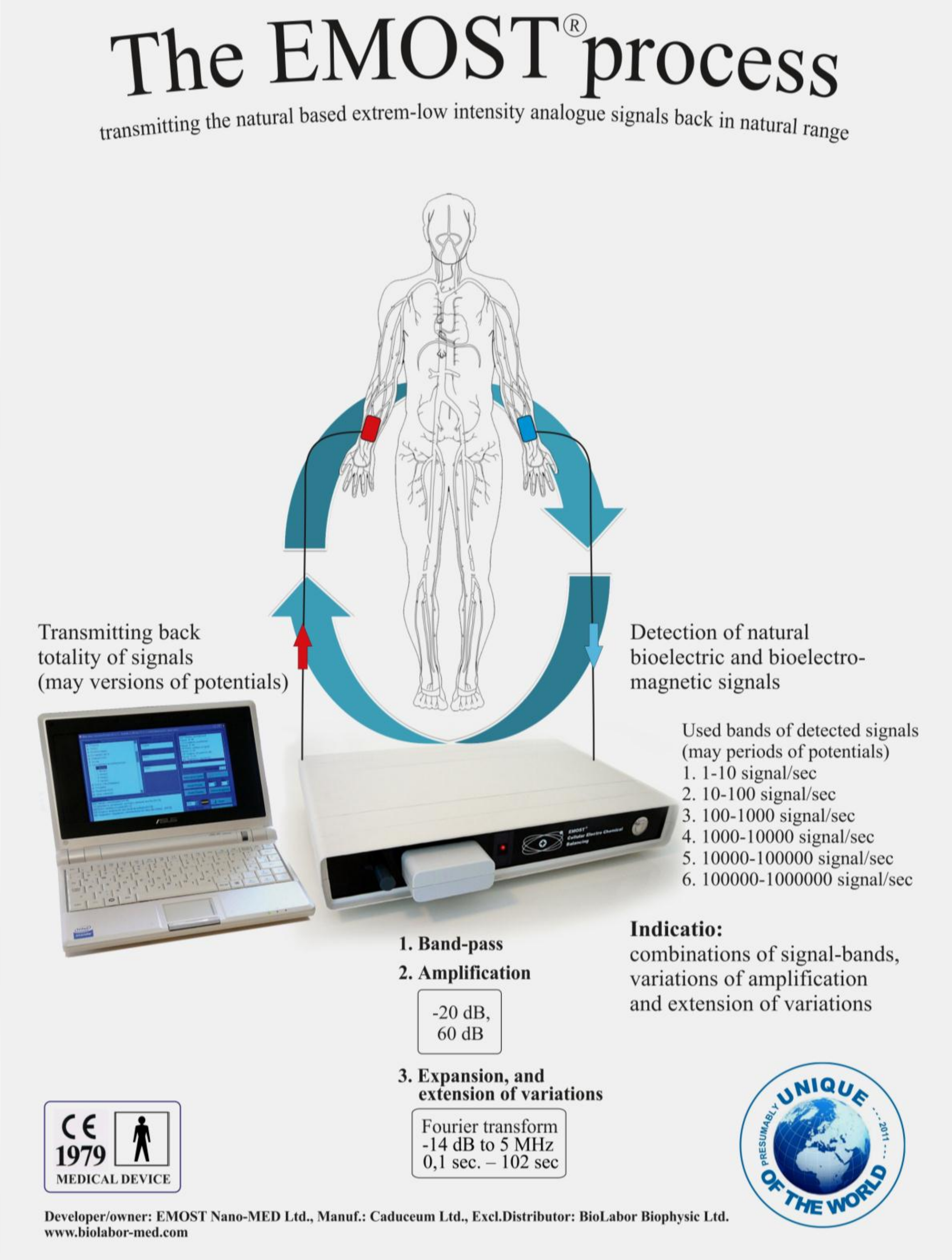

Figure 2. The EMOST process

EMOST method exerts its effect through the skin associated autonomous nervous system

The innervated skin is an incredible complex system and the largest organ of the body with numerous very important functions that is linked to the peripheral sensory nervous system (PNS), the autonomous nervous system (ANS), and the central nervous system (CNS). There is growing evidence that the cutaneous peripheral nervous system has essential roles in skin homeostasis as well as in diseases. Cutaneous nerves can react to stimuli from the circulation and to emotions. There is evidence that autonomic nervous system serves as a major component in the emotion response. Moreover, the central nervous system is directly (through efferent nerves or CNS-derived mediators) or indirectly (through the adrenal glands or immune cells) linked to skin functions (Figure 3). It suggests that skin, as our largest organ, can represent stress related conscious and unconscious emotions directly by efferent nerves and mediators from CNS or indirectly by the adrenal glands or immune cells. The represented stress related conscious and unconscious emotions can affect on biochemical, bioelectrical and bioelectromagnetic patterns. It is very probable that EMOST method exerts its major effect through the skin associated autonomous nervous system (ANS), which offers a unique therapy for the treatment of a numbers of different disorders. EMOST exposition can modulate biochemical, bioelectrical, and bioelectromagnetic processes in the skin, and the modulated skin signals can affect the neuroendocrine system and modulate brain activity through ANS.

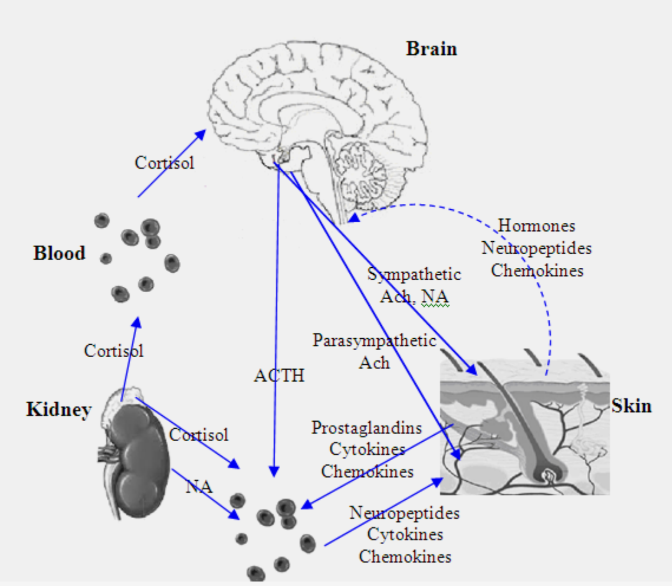

Figure 3. Shematic illustration about complex communication between skin cells and the nervous system.
Ach =acetylcholine, NA=noradrenaline, ACTH= Adrenocorticotropic hormone.

Why should be applied the EMOST method for prison officers and prisoners in prisons?

Our many years experience indicated (that we have published in academic journals) the efficiency of EMOST treatments for improve mental and physical states, i.e. stress reduction, sleep problems, improved mood, increased concentration ability, among them. The EMOST method has also been applied successfully to reduce stress under catastrophic conditions for many subjects (Figure 4). We also reported some preliminary experiments regarding the effectiveness of single EMOST treatment on some stress related serum parameters such as uric acid, albumin, cortisol, C-reactive protein etc. As we could see above, sleep and stress (aggression) are central problems under prison conditions. The systematic and routine application of EMOST treatment is not only able to reduce aggression, but also able to maintain overall health in prisons. Finally, the application of EMOST in prisons can produce significant cost saving and improve general health conditions.

Figure 4. In June, 2010 the biggest flood hit Felsőzsolca, in Hungary. Our photos have been taken in Felsőzsolca. (A) EMOST treatments of exhausted and stressed local residents, soldiers, firefighters. (B) Our car and local residents in a flooded street in Felsőzsolca, on June. 2010. (C) Residents used a boat to cross a flooded street in Felsőzsolca.

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