

A discussion on the current practices and theories that underpin the teaching of osteopathic palpation

Simon Browning DO MA Cert Ed
British School of Osteopathy



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF OSTEOPATHY

Open Forum for Osteopathic Education
29-30th September, Potsdam, Germany

The British School of Osteopathy

Southwark Bridge Road ground floor clinic



Borough High Street academic building



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“physical examination in medical diagnosis by pressure of the hand or fingers to the surface of the body especially to determine the condition (as of size or consistency) of an underlying part or organ” *(Merriam-Webster)*

palpation

historically osteopathic palpatory findings were described using the following terms:-

abnormal hardness, bogginess or ropiness *(Fryer et al 2004)*

now simply ‘intervertebral dysfunction’ *Fryer and Johnson (2005)*

- Merriam-Webster available at <http://www.merriam-webster.com/medical/palpation>
- Fryer G, Johnson J 2005 Dissection of the thoracic paraspinal region and implications for osteopathic palpatory diagnosis: A case study *International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* 8 pp 69-74
- Fryer G, Morris T, Gibbons P. 2004 The relationship between palpation of thoracic paraspinal tissues and pressure sensitivity measured by a digital algometer. *International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine* 7: pp 64–9.



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what is the educational basis to our palpatory teaching?

outline of my thesis



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Delphi method

- mixed qualitative / quantitative study
- small panel of experts
- aims to reach a consensus
- three or four rounds of a web based questionnaire

designing the initial questionnaire



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you are planning the initial palpation class for a group of osteopathic students....

What are the **educational and practical** elements that you consider essential to ensure this class is successful?



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you are planning the final palpation class for a group of osteopathic students....

What are the **educational and practical** elements that you consider essential to ensure this class is successful?



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individually please list what **YOU** consider
the five **most** and five **least** important
elements that have been identified



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finally...

.... again individually note down any
educational theories you think
underpin the teaching of palpation



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comments/suggestions

simonb@bso.ac.uk

275 Borough High Street London SE1 1JE



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