

PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

1087 Beacon Street Suite 101
Newton, Massachusetts 02159
(617) 244-4462

I'd like to share with you an exciting experience I had this past summer as a teaching assistant for a gross anatomy lab course at Harvard Medical School. It was the last day of class and usually on the last day a calvarium cut is made in the cranium in order to remove the brains of the 10 cadavers made available for each semester. The brains can then be used for the neuroanatomy lab the next semester. This time, I decided to seize the opportunity to make the parietal window cut, as Dr. Upledger did in his early research. This technique allows us to remove the brain, and preserve the integrity of the intracranial membrane system. It was quite a sight to see! The three dimensional geometry of the intact membranes was no longer left to my imagination or my visual skills alone. I could view first hand the design and formation of the falx cerebri, tentorium cerebelli, and falx cerebelli. Many of the students couldn't understand my excitement, but were open and interested in my explanation. The excitement did not end here. Next, along with the assistance of a student, I proceeded to do a temporal ear pull technique. During this procedure I palpated the tentorium cerebelli and, sure enough, was able to feel the tension and stretch created by the ear pull. Even in a dead body the tentorium could be affected with an ear pull. How much more effect would be obtained in a live person! I then, by hooking my fingers into the window cut, simulated a frontal lift and then a parietal lift while palpating the falx cerebri and the falx cerebelli. I was able to feel the transmission of these lifting forces into the membranes.

This experience helped to confirm for me the efficacy of the cranial techniques, and further emphasized the need to not only get an osseous release, but because of the relationship of the membranes to the cranial vault bones, to look for the membranous releases as well. I look forward to further cranial dissections with cadavers that will be made available to me this winter prior to being embalmed or preserved with any chemicals. Will keep you posted with more exciting experiences if and when they arise!