

How To Thrive In the Modern World

A LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO CHINESE MEDICINE

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Introduction

You have likely picked up this book because you are looking for ways to live a healthier, more balanced life. Maybe you have been struggling with your health and are in need of a new approach. If you are like most of our patients, you do not want to choose between being on medications for the rest of your life or suffering with nagging health problems. Instead, you want to live a life that is unlimited in its potential. You want to be full of energy. You want your body to be a symbol of vitality, strength, and longevity.

If you are fed up with not being able to enjoy the quality of life that you deserve due to various health problems, then the information in this book could change your life. Within these pages, you will learn about a fascinating ancient treatment method called Chinese medicine. This is an ancient form of healthcare that has been practiced for thousands of years and has helped literally billions of people. Our goal in offering you this information is to:

- ♦ Offer you a clear overview of this incredible healing system
- ♦ Give you a sense of empowerment that there are indeed natural solutions to your current health problems
- ♦ Encourage you to be proactive about your health and treat it as a top priority for the rest of your life

Having treated many patients with numerous health concerns, we know how frustrating and challenging it can be to struggle with chronic health issues. We have learned that health problems are often warning signs from a very intelligent place within ourselves that we need to change our current way of doing things. Learning how to thrive in your life has a lot to do with learning from your health concerns, not just pushing them away or judging them as negative. This approach is, for many of our patients, where true healing begins. The information contained in these pages is your blueprint for a new way of understanding your body and mind.

If you have any questions or would like to pursue this form of healthcare, please refer to the end of the book on page 29 where there is information about our practice. Let's begin!

Chapter 1

INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH

When you think about it, there is nothing more important than your health. Even if every other dimension of life is going well (work, marriage, finances, etc.) we really can't enjoy life if we are struggling with our physical or emotional health. Investing in and making a commitment to your health can feel like a big step to take, especially when we are conditioned to put everyone else's needs before our own or to just 'suck it up' and deal with our stressful lives.

This is the starting point for learning how to thrive, as investing in your health is one of the most powerful steps you can take to dramatically enhance the quality of your daily life. It sets the stage for success in every dimension of life. When you have more energy, confidence, mental clarity, and improved physical health, you are more able to gracefully handle daily stressors and challenges that would have previously overwhelmed you. Composure, control, and peace become the foundations of your life rather than isolated experiences.

Committing to and being proactive about your health in this way will lead to not only immediate improvement in your life, but will also set the stage for greater vitality and resilience as you age. In this way, there is a strong preventative aspect to claiming optimal health right now. Most of us have been taught to put off our own needs until our bodies and minds are screaming at us for acknowledgment. We wait until we are given a wake up call that usually comes in the form of illness or worsening health problems.

But what if you were to be proactive right now? What if you decided to care for yourself enough to take the steps necessary to optimize your current state of health, thereby preventing future problems? What is preventing you from living a life of boundless energy and radiant health right now?

These are powerful questions to ask yourself. You see, most of us are caught in a constant game of negotiation with ourselves to buy more time to put off

the most important things in life. We think we have time to postpone our deepest needs for health, peace, and balance.

What we are getting at is that, in order to thrive in the modern world, it is essential that you commit right NOW to your health as a top priority. This means:

- ♦ Partnering with the right holistic and allopathic (Western) medical practitioners
- ♦ Eating an organic whole foods diet
- ♦ Exercising 3-4 times a week
- ♦ Taking time each day to be present using relaxation techniques
- ♦ Freeing yourself of any limiting beliefs that undermine your health and quality of life

As with all important priorities in life, it is essential that you surround yourself with a community of people that can inspire and guide you in the direction of optimal health. We all need this kind of guidance or else we easily feel alone and confused. As you will see, a skilled acupuncturist can be an incredibly helpful resource in this regard.


Let's summarize the main points here, then we will jump into an exploration of Chinese medicine and how it can help you achieve your health goals:

- ♦ Your health and quality of life depend on the choices you make every moment you are alive
- ♦ You can choose to claim a much higher level of health right now
- ♦ You do this by freeing harmful beliefs, establishing healthy lifestyle patterns, and allying yourself with a team of skilled holistic and allopathic medical practitioners
- ♦ NOW is the only moment we have; putting off your deepest needs will create bigger problems down the road

How do I know if I'm a good candidate for acupuncture treatment?

You would likely receive great benefit from this form of care if you are:

- ♦ Struggling with chronic health issues that haven't responded to other forms of care
- ♦ Interested in reducing dependence on Western medications
- ♦ Looking for alternatives to conventional forms of treatment

- 
- ♦ Seeking ways to optimize your health on all levels of being
 - ♦ Fed up with the conventional healthcare model
 - ♦ Looking for ways to grow spiritually and emotionally
 - ♦ And perhaps the most important point: You are interested in taking responsibility for your health to make the changes that will create a life of greater balance and purpose

Chapter 2

THE MANY BENEFITS OF CHINESE MEDICINE

As we mentioned, Chinese medicine has been practiced for thousands of years and is used around the globe by millions of people. The reason that it has survived for so long and adapted to different cultures is that it offers a vast and potent repertoire of healing benefits that are so widely needed in our modern world.

You may have noticed that acupuncture has enjoyed an enormous surge of interest lately, as the media is really catching onto the widespread benefit that this treatment option is offering to so many people.

Just what are some of these benefits? Well, the list could expand over many pages, but here is a condensed version of what our patients are expressing and what clinical evidence is suggesting:

- ♦ Substantial increase of energy
- ♦ More restful sleep patterns
- ♦ Less cravings, habitual behaviors, and addictive tendencies
- ♦ Reduction or elimination of chronic stress
- ♦ Emotional balance, increased joy and motivation
- ♦ Increased mental clarity and memory
- ♦ Improved athletic performance
- ♦ Enhanced metabolism
- ♦ Enhanced spiritual and emotional growth

Chinese medicine can effectively treat a number of chronic health problems, from anxiety and depression to chronic pain and PMS. The list of conditions treated by this medicine is vast to say the least.

Many people report a deep feeling of peace that stays with them for many hours or days after acupuncture treatment. Many patients find that this feeling of peace becomes the foundation for their life rather than an occasional experience.

Chapter 3

WHAT IS CHINESE MEDICINE AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Chinese medicine is an ancient form of healthcare that has been practiced throughout the Asian world for 5000 years. Historically and up until this very day, Chinese medicine is perhaps the most widely used form of medicine throughout the world, as billions of people have used it as their primary form of care. There are five main branches of Chinese medicine (we will be covering the first two of these in some depth):

- ♦ Acupuncture
- ♦ Chinese herbal medicine
- ♦ Nutrition
- ♦ Qi gong
- ♦ Feng shui

According to Chinese medical theory, these five branches form the foundation of a healthy and balanced life.

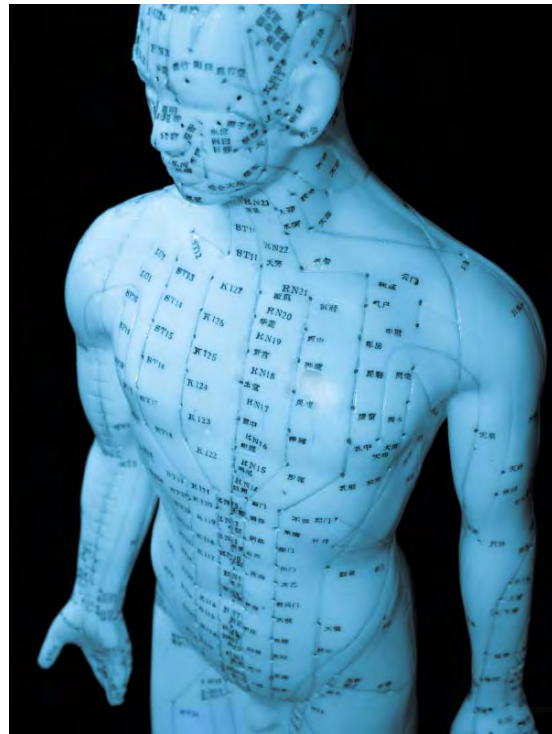
Acupuncture theory is premised upon the concept of Qi (pronounced Chee), which loosely translates as energy, life force, or function. The main point when trying to grasp the concept of Qi is to consider the possibility that there is an immaterial level of reality that Western science cannot quantify or categorize. Acupuncture theory suggests that many of our physical and emotional problems begin at a level of function that is more subtle than our brain chemistry or organ function.

Quantum physics has come to a very similar understanding of the material world and the human body by proving that when we break down any material object into its smallest components, it is reduced to pure energy. So, many of these ancient Eastern cultures have long understood what Western science is finally beginning to accept. Our bodies, while seemingly solid, are actually energetic configurations that are constantly changing. Acupuncture is premised upon this understanding. The point of treatment is to manipulate the flow of Qi within our bodies in different ways to induce a

therapeutic effect. By working on the energetic level, the physical or material level can be directly affected. In fact, according to acupuncture theory, many forms of imbalance or disease cannot be fully healed simply by intervening on the material level. The underlying energetic component has to be addressed in order to treat the root cause of the problem.

Now, according to acupuncture theory, the Qi in our bodies is said to pool and gather at specific locations that are spread out from head to toe. The specific locations where Qi gathers are called acupoints, or acupuncture points. These are typically the places where acupuncture needles are inserted to induce various therapeutic effects. There are approximately 365 basic acupoints on the human body. These numerous points are located on acupuncture meridians, which are channels of Qi that flow throughout the body. The meridians correspond to the major internal organs. Here is a list of the 12 major meridians that run through the body:

LUNG
LARGE INTESTINE
SPLEEN
STOMACH
BLADDER
KIDNEY
HEART
SMALL INTESTINE
SAN JIAO
PERICARDIUM
GALL BLADDER
LIVER



There are numerous acupoints on each of these 12 meridians. For instance, the Lung meridian has 11 acupoints while the Bladder Meridian has 67 acupoints. Each of these 365 points have names, metaphors, and images associated with them that help the acupuncturist utilize them in different ways. The meridians travel through specific regions of the body; they have definite origins and end points. Typically, an acupuncturist will insert tiny needles into a number of the acupuncture points on the meridians that are most in need of balancing.

What does the needle do?

Acupuncture should be a relatively painless, deeply relaxing experience. Many people are reluctant to pursue it because it involves the use of needles. Rest assured, a skilled practitioner can treat you with minimal, if any, discomfort. It is common for the patient to ask, 'did you *really* just put a needle in?' after it is inserted because the procedure is so gentle. Most patients are surprised by how little they feel as the needles are inserted. After the needles are in, there is typically a sensation of dull pressure or a mild achiness. Other patients report a feeling of tingling or warmth, while others feel a tangible and strong presence of Qi coursing through the body. In any regard, acupuncture should be a pleasant, tranquilizing, and safe experience. The needles are hair-thin and are used only once, then disposed into a biohazard container.

Most acupuncturists use stainless steel needles which are said to disperse energy and get the Qi moving effectively throughout the meridian that is being worked on. The needle is used as a medium for transferring and manipulating Qi in various ways. There are some acupuncturists who are so skilled at working with Qi that they don't even need to use a needle to do so. They can simply use their hands or, even more remarkably, the power of their faculties of awareness, to induce the desired energetic shift that needs to occur for healing to take place. Most acupuncturists prefer to use needles, simply because this is the easiest medium to utilize for changing the energetics of the body.

In acupuncture theory, all of the major organs of the body are believed to work interdependently. This means, for example, that the function of your kidneys can have a direct impact on the function of your lungs. This is one example of the holistic nature of Chinese medicine. Western medicine tends to reduce the focus down to one isolated component without regard for how the organism is functioning as a whole. In acupuncture theory, all of our internal organs are part of an inseparable matrix of function; they all have important roles to play that directly influence the health of the other organs in the body.

Therefore, the acupuncturist can insert a needle into the Spleen meridian that will have a direct effect on the Heart meridian. Or, the acupuncturist can sedate or disperse Qi by using a point on the Liver meridian to help the kidneys function better. Other times, the acupuncturist works directly on the meridian that reflects the person's symptoms. For instance, acupuncture points on the Lung meridian can be used for treating asthma. How an acupuncturist chooses which points to needle is based on their training, expertise, and knowledge. It is

very likely that if a patient with a specific health condition were to see three different acupuncturists, they would receive three unique styles of treatment, **all of which could effectively address their presenting health issues.**

Many acupuncturists assert that the ritual of needling specific points is primarily a way of making therapeutic suggestions to the body. It is like offering the body some new input to work with so it can disentangle itself from the feedback loop and habit of chronic pain, imbalance, or weakness. Our bodies are miraculous self-healing organisms. When prompted and guided in the right way, the body has the amazing ability to heal itself. This is what all forms of holistic medicine intend to induce: A non-invasive, gentle, yet potent method of intervention that naturally offers to the body what it needs to heal itself.

Inserting a needle into an acupuncture point is a way of communicating with the patient's body. It is like saying to the body, "WAKE UP!" or "relax..." In fact, there are a number of intentions and suggestions that a skilled acupuncturist can utilize when working on a patient. Acupuncture is much more powerful when the intention of the practitioner is transmitted through the needles. In this sense, the needles can absorb this intention and penetrate the barrier of the patients' skin. This is one of the most fascinating dimensions of this form of treatment. There are numerous occasions where patients directly feel energy shift in their body and seem to awaken to the intention that has been created prior to insertion of the needles.

As with all forms of holistic treatment, Chinese medicine begins with the theory that every human being has an innate resource of wisdom, strength, and health that can be tapped into at any moment. Acupuncture is a way of making contact with this incredible resource. In this sense, it emphasizes the truth that each of us must be held accountable for our health and quality of life. If life circumstances have caused us to feel alienated from this inner wisdom, then we can certainly turn to acupuncture as a way to reconnect with ourselves and awaken to our full potential. But acupuncture is not intended to be a cure-all for our health problems nor is it a magic bullet that will make all of our pain go away. A skilled acupuncturist will engage in a therapeutic relationship with the patient to help educate them about how they can take responsibility for their symptoms or imbalances.

This approach is very different from Western medicine in which the patient is typically offered a pill to suppress or alleviate their symptoms. While allopathic care is certainly warranted for acute and life-threatening conditions, it fails at

truly offering a deep level of support to the millions of patients with chronic, stress-related issues like anxiety, insomnia, pain, and digestive disorders. By putting the responsibility and power in the hands of the patient through effective education and treatment, Chinese medicine is mainly intent on treating the root cause of our health conditions.

Now, this does not mean that you have to believe in these techniques for them to work. It does mean that you have to believe in yourself to reap the full benefits that these strategies have to offer.

We have already touched on the fact that Chinese medicine is one of the few truly holistic medical traditions in the modern world. What does this mean exactly? Well, a skilled acupuncturist looks at health and illness differently than does a typical Western doctor. A holistic form of care is one that focuses on:

- ♦ The effects of the mind (beliefs, perceptions, attitudes) on the human body
- ♦ The role that nature plays in health and disease
- ♦ The relationship between emotional and physical health
- ♦ The subtle ways that energy is distributed through the human body
- ♦ The energetic processes that underlie physical and emotional imbalances

When we normally think of holistic medicine, we think of the connection between body, mind, and spirit. While this is certainly one dimension of any truly holistic paradigm, holism implies a much broader usage as well. For instance, when diagnosing your various health issues, the acupuncturist will look at:

- ♦ The relationship between your beliefs and predominant emotions
- ♦ Physical imbalances that may be contributing to emotional hardship
- ♦ Dietary habits
- ♦ Exercise habits
- ♦ The degree to which you are engaged with and loving your work
- ♦ Social support systems
- ♦ Spiritual awareness
- ♦ Intimate relationships

All of these factors are potential inputs into your current level of health. From a holistic perspective, anything that we have attracted into our lives that strengthens the momentum of our current health issues needs to be considered as a

potential avenue for therapeutic intervention. In this sense, a skilled acupuncturist often is seen as a health or life coach as much as they are a healer or a doctor.

The beauty of holistic medicine is that it truly does account for your individual and unique makeup. For instance, you may have noticed in Western medicine that there are three or four medications that are used for all kinds of anxiety and depression. Prozac, Paxil, Effexor, etc. are standard treatment options regardless of the patient's specific energetic, physiological, and emotional makeup. In holistic medicine, anxiety and depression are considered generic labels that do not capture the unique dynamics of the individual. For instance, one person can experience a grief-based depression due to the loss of a loved one while someone else is depressed because they are internalizing a lot of anger and don't know how to express themselves. In Western medicine, these two very different patients would likely receive the same medication. In holistic medicine, there are entirely different approaches used to complement the specific emotional dynamics of the patient. Grief and anger are very different emotions and need different therapeutic inputs in order to be liberated. In this sense, holistic medicine really does treat the person, not the disorder.

Chinese medicine asserts that the body mirrors the mind. To the extent that we are spiritually embodied and free of distorted beliefs, our bodies will thrive. Contrarily, gradual physical decline is the result of attachment to limiting viewpoints that suppress the spirit. Many people blame their failing health on the aging process. From a holistic perspective, chronological age has very little to do with the health of the physical body. The reason that the body tends to decline as we age is because of the chronic and stubborn nature of our conditioned beliefs and habits. If we choose to enable these beliefs to run our lives year after year, rest assured the body will inevitably undergo a process of degeneration that can be gradual or sudden. The body becomes less tolerant of imbalanced perceptions and behaviors over time. This is the main reason that age-related physical issues become apparent. This is accounted for by the many elderly people in the world who have maintained a state of thriving physical health that seems to defy their actual age.

The life force of the human spirit is what animates the body and provides its deepest source of nourishment. If this is blocked by difficult emotions, the body will be vulnerable to a process of more rapid deterioration, even if one eats a healthy diet and thinks that they take good care of themselves. Chinese medicine is a way of making suggestions to the body/mind to release any blocks to

one's spirit so that this deep source of health and well-being can finally be accessed.

What can I expect during treatment?

Many patients have been amazed by the sensations they feel during treatment, as if there their body is pulsating with a pleasant electrical current that they have never felt before. Acupuncture helps people feel their internal energy. It gets them out of their head and restores a kind of intuitive connection with the body. Acupuncture has a way of dropping one's attention deep into the body to feel the subtle currents of sensation that are created by the movement of Qi.

Many people also describe how quickly the acupuncture session goes by. Even though they had been laying on the table for 45 minutes, they literally feel that only 10 minutes have passed. This happens because acupuncture has a way of taking people out of linear time. As the patient's awareness becomes more body-oriented, the normal thought process of cause and effect ('I have to make that meeting at 12') falls away, and a sense of timelessness ensues. This alone can be a profoundly healing experience.

If you try acupuncture, you will very likely fall asleep or simply sink into a deep relaxation. For the rest of the day (and possibly for several days after that), you will feel energized and refreshed, as if your body has just gone through a period of deep rest.

Chapter 4

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ACUPUNCTURE?

While a detailed analysis of the history and theory of acupuncture is beyond the scope of this book, it is important to know that there are two main traditions of acupuncture used throughout the world. The first one is called eight principle acupuncture, which involves harmonizing imbalances that have developed in the body. The eight principles refer to:

- ♦ Damp
- ♦ Dry
- ♦ Hot
- ♦ Cold
- ♦ Excess
- ♦ Deficient
- ♦ Yin
- ♦ Yang

An eight principle acupuncturist will use these parameters to assess the relative degree of balance within the patient's body. For instance, a patient can have a deficiency of yin, which means that the calming, moistening, and cooling aspects of their physiology have become depleted. In this case, the acupuncturist will nourish yin in order to calm and cool the patient.

Eight principle acupuncture is the predominant form of treatment in the modern world. Most acupuncturists are trained in this manner. It is an effective way to clear out various symptoms by harmonizing their underlying imbalances. This style of treatment is widely regarded as being able to quickly offer symptomatic relief. Many acupuncturists rely on it for treating pain-related concerns such as frozen shoulder, headaches, low back pain, and sprains and strains. Eight principle acupuncture can often be used to reduce or eliminate pain medications. It has no side effects and is considered a very safe and effective form of treatment for both chronic and acute pain.

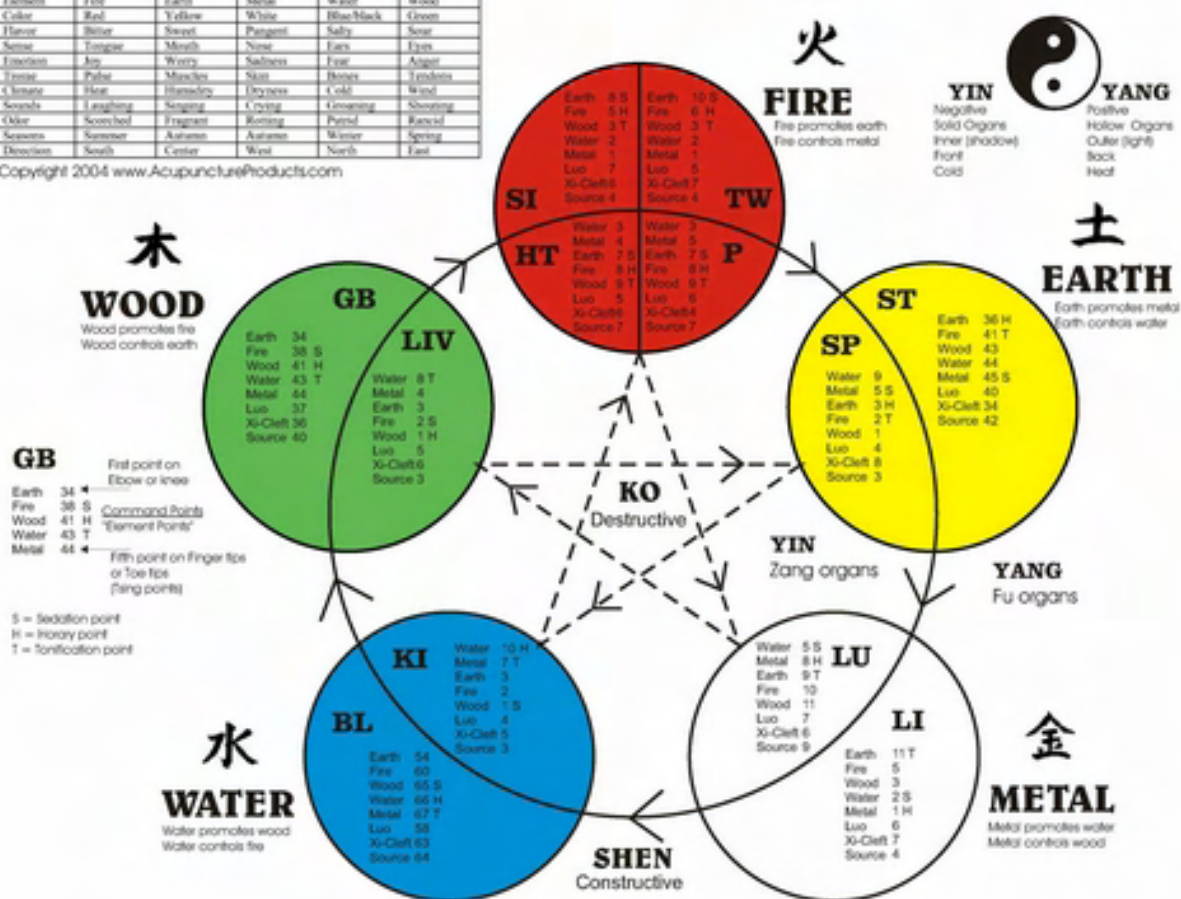
Eight principle acupuncture can also be used for internal medical conditions,

as it exerts a harmonizing and balancing influence on the internal organs and the major systems of the body. While it is certainly useful for chronic health issues, many acupuncturists also utilize five element acupuncture, the second style of treatment, for this purpose.

Five element acupuncture has its roots in pre-Communist Chinese medicine. This tradition was born out of a cultural viewpoint that embraced the powerful reality of the invisible world and the effect that Qi and the emotions can have on our physical health. According to the five element model, every human being has a constitutional type that is created at the moment of conception that is aligned with one of five elements: earth, metal, water, wood, and fire. Each of these elements has within them specific associations that are found throughout the natural world. As such, there is a color, sound, odor, emotion, season, and belief system ascribed to each of the elements. Below is a basic chart that will help you to understand the associations of each element:

Element	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water	Wood
Color	Red	Yellow	White	Black/Blue	Green
Flavor	Bitter	Sweet	Pungent	Salty	Sour
Sense	Tongue	Mouth	Nose	Ears	Eyes
Emotion	Joy	Worry	Sadness	Fear	Anger
Essence	Heart	Muscles	Skin	Bones	Tendons
Climate	Hot	Warm	Dryness	Cold	Wind
Season	Summer	Spring	Autumn	Winter	Spring
Direction	South	Center	West	North	East

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EARTH

Emotion: sympathy, rumination, obsession

Color: yellow

Season: late summer

Sound: singing

Odor: fragrant

Distorted belief: 'I am not enough; therefore, I must put others or myself first in all situations.'

Earth in Balance: Feeling complete right now, genuine selflessness, balance between giving and receiving

METAL

Emotion: grief, longing

Color: white

Season: fall

Sound: weeping

Odor: rotting

Distorted belief: 'Life has no value and is meaningless; therefore, I must attach to the material world or renounce it altogether.'

Metal in Balance: Inspiration, value, poignancy, being present to life

WATER

Emotion: fear, anxiety

Color: blue

Season: winter

Sound: groaning

Odor: putrid

Distorted belief: 'My purpose is not powerful enough to change the world. I am subject to the whims of fate.'

Water in Balance: Purpose and potential fulfilled, feeling the fear and doing it anyway, power

WOOD

Emotion: anger, frustration

Color: green

Season: spring

Sound: shouting

Odor: rancid

Distorted belief: 'Life isn't fair. I am resigned to a life of injustice.'

Wood in Balance: Creativity, broad perspective, benevolent, visionary

FIRE

Emotion: sadness or lack of joy

Color: red

Season: summer

Sound: laughing

Odor: scorched

Distorted belief: 'Life isn't safe. It's impossible to find real intimacy.'

Fire in Balance: Charisma, joy, connection, compassion

According to the five element model, every one of us is predominantly affected by one of these elements and their associations.

Using the wise guidance of this model, we can see how there are precise psychological dynamics at work that perpetuate our physical health problems. As these psychological dynamics are allowed to persist, the five element model clearly shows us how physical pathology will eventually result.

Clearing Shock

The first priority in treatment using five element acupuncture is taking the patient out of a state of shock. While most of us think of shock as an overt trauma or accident that would lead to post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or something of the like, shock can be much more subtle in its cause and manifestation. From this perspective, we can define shock as the loss of awareness of present moment reality. This kind of shock leads to many chronic health problems, as the body will eventually mirror the mind. Using various five element acupuncture protocols, the blocked energy of shock can usually be cleared either instantly or within a few weeks of treatment. When this happens, the patient will typically say something like, 'I feel like my old self' or 'I feel like I have myself back.' These are classic statements that show the shock has cleared.

Five element acupuncture suggests that the majority of the people in our society is in this kind of low grade shock. We are surviving, but we are not thriving. We are able to function and make it through the day, but we are not deeply connected with our purpose and living from a place of spirit. This is why 40 million Americans have been diagnosed with anxiety and depression and why countless more carry chronic and extreme amounts of stress, pain, insomnia, and hormonal imbalances.

Chapter 5

CASE STUDY

The following is a case study that captures the relationship between a patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual dynamics.

Jenny, a 52 year old woman, came in with the initial complaints of fatigue, low back pain, dry and burning eyes, thirst, insomnia and digestive weakness (characterized by bloating, constipation, sluggish metabolism, or diarrhea). These symptoms had persisted for four years and were steadily getting worse. While she did not explicitly state that she was anxious or depressed, it was clear that she would easily be clinically diagnosed as suffering from both of these maladies. A recent series of tests performed by a rheumatologist had led to a tentative diagnosis of Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune disorder characterized by extreme dryness, insomnia, and joint pain.

Jenny was extremely worried about her health. In particular, she mentioned several times that she was terrified of having a heart attack. Even though her blood pressure and cholesterol were within normal limits, she could not stop obsessing about the health of her heart. It was clear that Jenny felt extremely victimized by her health issues. She would repeatedly ask, 'why me?' and 'why do I have this back pain again and again?' She desperately wanted someone to understand all that was happening to her and to sympathize with her unfortunate plight in life. These signs, along with her yellow facial color, and sweet disposition, confirmed that Jenny was an earth constitution.

After a few acupuncture treatments, it was evident that Jenny was on her way to better health. There was more light in her eyes, she was laughing more, and she was generally more light-hearted. She was not complaining as much about her aches and pains. During one particularly powerful treatment, Jenny finally arrived at the core belief system that had sabotaged her emotional and physical health:

'I am only good enough when I work my hardest to please other people. Rest

is for lazy people.'

Jenny had been a victim to this core belief for the better part of fifty years. She had never given herself permission to deeply rest, relax, and enjoy life. Instead, she worked too hard, always putting other's needs before her own. All of her symptoms were clear messages that her mind was working against her body (which is common in autoimmune disorders). This belief was slowly killing her.

After identifying this constitutional imbalance, she said, 'Well, I guess I'm going to have to work on getting rid of that.' In reality, her attempts to 'work on' this issue would only provide more struggle for her. After all, it was her 'working on' every aspect of life that had slowly eroded her physical health. Instead, it was suggested to her that she liberate the energy of this belief right now and allow it to be effortless. This struck a deep chord within her as she said, 'You mean I really can do that?' A look of relief washed over her as she made her way to the treatment table. A few acupuncture points were chosen that captured the essence of this profound shift. To give you a sense of how five element acupuncture works, the names and functions of the points have been included here:

Stomach 40 Abundant Splendor: Restores a sense of wholeness and completion
Stomach 8 Head Tied: Relaxes the mind's tendency to obsess and worry
Spleen 3: Strengthens the basic ability to receive nourishment from life
Heart 7: Transmits this nourishment directly into the heart

Jenny's constant worry about her heart was actually a way of expressing her awareness that her heart was not open to her life. She simply mistook her literal heart for the suppressed nature of her shen (the spirit of the heart that expresses one's deepest source of wisdom to the world). Her homework assignment after the treatment was to take the next two weeks to do nothing but completely relax and nourish herself, to give herself permission to restore her lost health.

This case study can give you a sense of how acupuncture can help someone deeply heal both the mind and the body. Immediate and profound change can result from identifying the core dysfunctional belief system reflective of one's constitutional type and then needling acupuncture points to balance the Qi that supports that belief system. This is why acupuncture can be so helpful for a myriad of chronic health problems. It can address the underlying energetic imbalance that sustains our health problems. When this level of treatment is

effectively addressed, one's overall health and life begin to feel much better. In this way, acupuncture can simultaneously heal the mind (anxiety and depression) and its correlative physical imbalances (joint pain, digestive problems, shoulder tension, headaches, etc.) As such, the entire pattern of disharmony has been resolved simply by balancing Jenny's Qi.

Chapter 6

AN OVERVIEW OF CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE

As one of the main branches of Chinese medicine, Chinese herbs have also been used for thousands of years to help in the healing of physical and mental disorders. Many people find herbs to be an attractive treatment option because, if they are used skillfully, they are generally free of side effects. Herbal medicine supports and enhances one's overall health.



A Chinese herbalist is more interested in strengthening the foundation of one's health rather than offering symptomatic band-aids. In this sense, herbal medicine works from the inside out; it treats the core issues that underlie our symptoms, which will either sooner or later rectify the symptoms themselves. This is in contrast to Western drugs which work from the outside in. They offer immediate symptomatic improvement without directly addressing the deeper cause of the symptoms. While there are certain cases where this is warranted, the long-term use of Western drugs for chronic health problems can be detrimental to one's foundation of health. This is why it is often best to pursue plant-based medicines and nutrition before going the drug route. It is a more gentle, life-affirming way to heal yourself.

Chinese herbalists generally use the Chinese herbs in various combinations to make up formulas for the patient. A talented herbalist can combine several herbs to offer a highly specific form of treatment to the unique needs of the patient. Herbs are quite versatile. One formula can have ingredients for treating depression and all of its byproducts such as pain, insomnia, or menstrual problems. When the underlying pattern of disharmony is

addressed, all of the symptoms associated with that pattern should improve.

In regards to physical health complaints, Chinese herbs can be used for a wide range of conditions including:

- ♦ Chronic pain
- ♦ Diarrhea
- ♦ Constipation
- ♦ PMS
- ♦ Menstrual cramps
- ♦ Weak immunity
- ♦ Asthma
- ♦ Headaches
- ♦ High blood pressure
- ♦ High cholesterol
- ♦ Type 2 diabetes
- ♦ Infertility

When it comes to treating the mind with Chinese herbs, it has long been recognized that there are numerous herbs that offer direct benefits for our emotional and psychological health. Everything that we ingest as food or medicine affects the mind in some form or another. Sometimes, however, it is too subtle to detect. When certain herbs are concentrated and given at a sufficient dosage, there can be tangible effects on one's consciousness. Chinese herbal formulas that work on the mind can:

- ♦ Make you feel psychologically lighter
- ♦ Relax and calm your thoughts
- ♦ Open your perspective on yourself and life
- ♦ Engender patience and calmness
- ♦ Boost confidence levels
- ♦ Induce more peaceful sleep

Chinese herbal medicine is widely regarded as a wonderful complement to acupuncture treatment. Many practitioners use Chinese herbs as a way to offer continual therapeutic input into the body between acupuncture treatments. By taking herbs on a daily basis, the positive momentum created by acupuncture is enhanced.

Can Chinese herbs be taken with my Western medications?

In many cases, yes. When you visit your practitioner, be sure to mention any medications you are taking and ask them about drug/herb interactions. There are situations where the herbs will antagonize Western medications, but in most cases herbs are safe to use with medications as long as they are prescribed by a skilled herbalist.

Along with acupuncture and Chinese herbs, Chinese medicine asserts that dietary therapy, exercise, and the healing of our environment also play crucial roles in our overall health and quality of health. In order to thrive, we want every piece of the puzzle to be acknowledged and working for us. Many acupuncturists will be able to help you develop a nutritional plan that reflects your unique constitutional needs. They may even show you various breathing exercises or Qi gong (a meditative form of movement) exercises that will enhance your treatment experience.

Chapter 7

THE DOCTOR OF THE FUTURE: A RETURN TO THE LAWS OF NATURE

"The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patients in the care of the human body, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease."

~Thomas Edison

One of the primary goals of holistic healthcare practitioners such as acupuncturists is educating patients on lifestyle choices so they don't become dependent on Western medications. Western medicine is miraculous in its ability to treat certain kinds of health concerns. Its ability to deal with conditions such as broken bones, life-threatening injuries, and severe infections is outstanding. These **acute** conditions are where traditional Chinese medicine is often limited. (Chinese medicine is very good for some acute conditions such as acute pain and childbirth, but usually works best when its more subtle methods have time to work.)

On the other hand, traditional Chinese medicine is very good at treating **chronic** problems.

Whether it's chronic insomnia, digestive problems, fatigue, menstrual issues, or emotional imbalances, the goal of Chinese medicine is to gently bring your system back to a state of dynamic balance. When this is done skillfully, there are no side effects or risks associated with the treatment.

This is why traditional Chinese medicine is called complementary medicine. It complements Western medicine's strength with acute problems by treating chronic problems that Western medicine can only hide. So when considering what treatment to seek, you may want to determine whether Western medicine will actually help the condition be resolved, or only make it tolerable. While Chinese medicine can not treat every chronic condition, it usually can help.

What's Wrong with Using Pharmaceuticals for Chronic Health Issues?

Most of us think of drugs as safe and effective. We hear about "wonder drugs" and are told such things as "take one and call me in the morning." Often these medications help to control symptoms, but they do have a dark side.

According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) in 1998, deaths due to legal drugs in hospitals were the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. Notice that this study only covered deaths in hospitals – the very place to be if you're near death. These deaths occurred even with ready access to doctors. Dr. Jay Cohen, in his book *Overdose: The Case Against Drug Companies* explains that this study is actually very conservative:

*Because of the especially rigorous methods the researchers applied, even these numbers may not present the full picture. The authors defined serious side effects narrowly, including only clear-cut reactions causing permanent disability, hospitalization, or death. Thus, they excluded side effects that disable people for weeks or months, side effects such as dizziness or sedation that cause automobile accidents or falls and broken limbs, side effects that require emergency interventions, and side effects that prolong hospitalizations or force people to miss work. And the authors didn't even try to count the largest category of all: side effect occurring in outpatients. **Overall, they excluded side effects that occur far more often than the ones they included.***

Despite omitting so many side effects, the JAMA study still recorded numbers reaching epidemic proportions. And, as the authors noted, this side effect epidemic wasn't new: "The incidence has remained stable over the last 30 years." (p. 3)

The problem is probably worse now, since this book was written in 2001. Since then, drug companies started to advertise extensively on TV. The drugs that are advertised are the newest drugs; by definition they're the least understood and therefore the most dangerous. As a well-known pharmacology textbook notes:

"51% of approved drugs have adverse side effects not detected prior to approval."¹

The side effects of new drugs are discovered over time. In fact, the Physician's Desk Reference, which is used by nearly all doctors as a reference to medications, consists mostly of descriptions of drug side effects.

In fact, "All drugs have side effects, and even the safest approved drugs have side effects," according to Dr. Janet Woodcock, the director of the FDA's Center

for Drug Evaluation and Research². Even Eli Lilly, founder of the \$58 billion Eli Lilly and Co. pharmaceutical company said:

"A drug without side effects is no drug at all."

Because of these side effects, drugs are often far from safe. Chinese medical theory explains why.

In traditional Chinese medicine, health conditions are believed to be due to an imbalance in the body. Modern drugs control symptoms by interrupting biochemical pathways that would otherwise cause pain, discomfort or other symptoms. However, the original imbalance in the body's systems is still there, and just masked by the medications.

In other words, ***drugs don't actually heal any conditions***. They only hide them and make them tolerable. The only exceptions seem to be chemotherapy drugs and antibiotics.

Acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine work by helping bring your body's systems back into balance. When that happens, natural healing mechanisms take over.

There's actually no way that healing can come from anywhere but within the body. A surgeon may make an incision, but without the natural healing ability of the body, there would be no healing. Even acupuncture does not heal – it only helps the body heal itself.

As current trends are indicating, our future medicine will indeed be one that places the power back in the hands of the patient through effective education and natural healing. In this way, medicine will once again help us to thrive, not just merely survive.

Please consult with your medical doctor and your acupuncturist together to determine the best strategy for your specific needs. We are not advocating that you discontinue your current medications, only that you are well informed about their side effects and potential alternative treatment options.

FOOTNOTES

1Melmon, K.L, Morerelli, H.F., Hoffman, B.B., and Nierenberg, D.W. Melmon and Morrelli's Clinical Pharmacology: Basic Principles in Therapeutics (3rd edition). New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1993.

2Trial Lawyers Are Taking Aim at the Drug Industry (New York Times) Sun, 18 May 2003 <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/05/18/business/18XDRU.html?pagewanted=print&position=top>

Using this natural and effective form of healthcare, it certainly is possible to thrive in our modern world. If you are ready to take charge of your health, call our clinic today and receive a free 15 minute consult to see how we can help you!

Did you find this ebook useful? Please spread the word by sharing this information with your family, friends, and co-workers! Many people are desperately trying to figure out how they can overcome their health problems and live more meaningful and energized lives. This ebook is a great starting point for creating hope and encouragement that there are indeed powerful resources available to guide us in this direction!

Resources

www.nccaom.org National Association for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
www.acupuncture.com
www.acupuncturetoday.com
www.pulsemed.org

Books

Archetypal Acupuncture by Gary Dolowich, MD
The Web That Has No Weaver by Ted Kaptchuk
Nourishing Destiny by Lonny Jarrett

About Our Practice

Modern Alchemy Acupuncture

"How does one become a butterfly?" she asked pensively. "You must want to fly so much that you are willing to give up being a caterpillar."

- Trina Paulus

What is Modern Alchemy?

Alchemy was an ancient, secret and much coveted process of transforming metal into gold. Although no one really knows whether the ancient alchemists were ever truly successful in their endeavors, today we do know that you can transform something much more valuable than metal into something more precious than gold. I'm referring to your health. My goal at Modern Alchemy is not only to help you resolve your health issues as soon as possible but to help you achieve true health on every level, physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, through the ancient wisdom of Chinese Medicine. As you experience the power of your own transformation, my hope is that you will feel the same empowerment not only to effect change in your own life but in the lives of others, your community, and the world.

The following are *just a few* of the treatment methods, which Modern Alchemy Acupuncture offers you on your journey towards optimal health.

Acupuncture Treatment Styles

Modern Alchemy Acupuncture

In my years as a practitioner of Chinese Medicine, I've come to realize that traditional acupuncture needling is sometimes too aggressive and painful a technique for many people to endure. Studying with great Masters of the art, I came to realize that a gentle technique was not only more relaxing and pleasurable for many individuals but was more effective as well. Personally, I find this gentle method to be the most powerful acupuncture I have ever experienced.

For this reason, I use a gentle approach in my own practice so that you not only obtain optimum results from whatever health challenge you are experiencing but your treatment experience will also be relaxing, tranquil and stress-free.

Esoteric Acupuncture

This unique and powerful acupuncture model was introduced by Dr. Mikio Sankey, acupuncturist, iridologist, naturopathic physician and author of five books on the subject of Esoteric Acupuncture. Dr. Sankey has been studying and integrating the teachings of the Ancient Ageless Wisdom for over three decades and it is a great honor for me to carry on this tradition of profound healing.

The application of Esoteric Acupuncture acts like a key, unlocking certain latent codes within the body and creating a higher caliber of healing. Imbalance and illness often manifest on the more subtle energetic levels before they become physical symptoms in the body. So rather than merely treating the signs and symptoms of a physical ailment, this high frequency healing also balances the energies existing beyond the physical body's energy field. Esoteric Acupuncture can be used alone, or in combination with conventional acupuncture to treat a variety of physical, mental and emotional illnesses. Greater harmony, enhancing conscious awareness and a greater connection to the higher spiritual realms are a few of the amazing benefits that this specialized and potent form of acupuncture provides.

Whether you are interested in a gentle but traditional approach to acupuncture or would like to explore the energetic power of esoteric acupuncture, Modern Alchemy can provide the best treatment style for your particular needs, overall balance and energy and maximum health.

"I have known Carlyn Montes De Oca L.Ac., for the last 13 years. Carlyn has successfully completed various levels of my Esoteric Acupuncture workshops and is very knowledgeable about the subject. She also has in depth knowledge of acupuncture and is well versed in the esoteric teaching of the Ageless Wisdom Schools. I highly recommend her for those seeking Esoteric treatments."

**-Dr. Mikio Sankey, Ph.D., L.Ac. Author of
"Esoteric Acupuncture, Gateway to Expanded Healing"**

Nutritional Counseling

The food we put into our mouth is a fundamental choice that we all can make to ensure not only our survival but to increase our longevity, the quality of our life and even promote our conscious awareness. I believe there are different levels of health one can reach, and enhanced nutrition is one of the pieces of the puzzle to help you reach that goal. From pain and symptomatic relief to utilizing food for more heightened consciousness, each one of us can choose the level of wellness, which we would like to achieve.

According to former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop, of the 2.4 million deaths that occur in the United States each year, 75% are the result of avoidable nutritional factor diseases such as Arthritis, Cancer, Stroke, Diabetes, Parkinson's, Cardiovascular Disease, Alzheimer's, etc. If this is the case, you can also expect to experience several years of poor quality of life before you succumb to your particular disease or condition. The good news is that degenerative disease is avoidable and in many cases reversible with a little education and the commitment to make it so.

The idea of using food as medicine is a concept, which I encourage all of my patients to understand and implement in their daily life, especially when they complain of a particular ailment, experience pain, begin to see signs of aging or want to stay well in general. An expensive car can only run on cheap fuel for so long before it stops functioning efficiently and eventually falls apart. By the same token, anything you eat will be transformed into the fuel your body needs to either run optimally or degenerate faster. If you are fortunate enough to have the resources, you can buy another car, but you cannot buy another body.

I encourage everyone to enjoy an organic, whole food, mostly alkaline and low glycemic approach to nutrition based on a little education and a lot of common sense. Not only will this lifestyle approach enable the body to function more efficiently but you will begin to see that positive nutritional changes result in lost pounds, increased energy and stamina, prevention against chronic degenerative disease and even a greater enthusiasm for life. Nature is generous and provides us with ample food, which grows in the ground, on trees and in our oceans. Choose to make the most of it.

Healthy Weight Loss

Now many of you may feel that time and time again, you have repeatedly tried to eat in a healthy way. But despite your best intentions and greatest feats of will power, you give in to fast food, or eat too many sweets and too many

white flour products like breads, crackers, chips, or pasta. These foods, are not optimal for the body and can leave you feeling tired, irritable and downright old. Maybe you are beginning to see the extra pounds form around your waistline or you notice your body feeling more achy and slowing down. You rationalize to yourself by saying you are getting older and that part of the aging process is to feel this way. Or maybe worse, you judge yourself harshly for being too weak and for giving in to foods that you know are not good for you. But what you might not understand is that you could be experiencing the vicious cycle, which results from eating a high-glycemic diet. Overeating carbohydrates and sweets, which is common in the standard American Diet, leads to an addiction to these foods. A virtual roller coaster takes place in your body when you repeatedly spike the level of sugar in your blood with these foods. Once you do this, the hormone insulin, attempts to regulate the excess amount of sugar in your blood but in the process brings the blood sugar crashing way too low. At this point you may feel irritable as your brain kicks in and demands that you feed it something that will once again raise your blood sugar. But the carbohydrates you crave to eat such as chips, sodas, cookies and candy, over-compensate this process and instead of bringing the blood sugar back to normal, they send it skyrocketing again into unhealthy levels. This unhealthy roller coaster ride is a difficult one to get off of by yourself, especially if you are unaware of what is taking place in your body. But I am here to tell you that it can be done and it's easier than you think.

High glycemic eating and obesity are a growing concern in this country and many people are unaware that these conditions can lead to further chronic degenerative diseases such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. If you or a loved one are concerned about these conditions or issues with weight or sugar addiction, please have them contact Modern Alchemy for a free 15 minute consultation. It may be the best call you ever make.

Nutritional Supplements

High quality nutritional supplementation is another essential component for ensuring your health and wellness. But why do we need supplements if we have a healthy diet?

We live in a different world than the one our predecessors inhabited. Yes, we may live longer but we aren't necessarily living healthier. Our ancestors ate food from a soil rich in nutrients, vitamins and minerals, which today have been depleted by over-farming and tainted by chemicals and preservatives. Our hectic lives have us reaching for foods out of packages or eating from fast food

establishments instead of choosing fresh, organic, live options. These factors coupled with unprecedented amounts of stress, add to the depletion of nutrients and minerals in our bodies. They also contribute to the formation of free radicals, which in turn can lead to disease. You need to have enough antioxidants in your system to handle the amount of free radicals you are producing. Free radicals can be neutralized by antioxidants but with this modern day assault on our physical bodies, it's virtually impossible to get all of the antioxidants we need from our food. If you already suffer from a chronic degenerative condition, you have to contend with even more free radicals than a healthy individual would have to. Fortunately, there is a solution.

Adding high quality nutritional supplementation can ensure that your cells are fed the nutrients they need for optimal function. If a tree does not have the appropriate nutrients in its roots, then pruning it, watering it, or caring for it in any other way will ultimately lead to failure and the tree will succumb to disease and potentially die. The same is true for the human body. The cells are the building blocks of the human body and they need to be fed appropriately and consistently.

When you consider the rising costs of medical care, especially as we age, and the potential side effects of prescription drugs, investing in nutritional supplements may just be the least expensive insurance policy you will ever find.

I am confident and pleased to announce that Modern Alchemy carries the highest quality, pharmaceutical grade supplements available in North America as established by the "Nutrsearch Guide to Nutritional Supplements" which rates and compares over 1500 nutritional supplements in Canada and the United States. This means that you can trust, that what you are putting into your body and that of your loved ones are the best quality, highest grade and most absorbable supplements available on the market today. My patients have seen the difference and so can you. For more information please visit www.modernalchemy.usana.com and see some of the high quality products that we carry. On a budget and not sure if you can afford nutritional supplements? Feel free to call or email me and I would be happy to show you how you can purchase your supplements for less than the wholesale cost.

Herbal Medicine

Chinese Herbal Medicines can treat the root cause of many diseases without side effects. You can also use herbal medicine while you are taking or reducing your use of western drugs or medications. At Modern Alchemy I prescribe the

highest quality herbal formulas in capsule, granule or tincture form for convenience and efficacy.

Cupping

Cupping is a method, which can relieve local congestion by applying a type of vacuum, which is created in a cup by heat and suction. Although cupping is often associated with Traditional Chinese Medicine, thousands of years ago, the Ancient Egyptians and Greeks also used this type of therapy.

Cupping is one of the best deep-tissue therapies available to relieve toxins and blockages and is often used to alleviate symptoms of the common cold, asthma, arthritis, bronchitis and abdominal pain, and neuromuscular or musculoskeletal ailments.

Detoxification

We can no longer close our eyes to the fact that we live in an era where it has become essential to routinely unburden our bodies of the various levels of toxicity they accumulate. Our bodies often reflect the polluted state of our food, water and environment by exhibiting the signs and symptoms of disease.

Headaches, fatigue, abdominal issues, and allergies are just some of the potential conditions associated with toxicity in the body, which can be relieved and even eliminated by cleansing.

To stay healthy, we must learn to cleanse as a way of life. Cleansing doesn't have to be difficult and there are many ways to do it. The simple act of increasing your water intake or adding a little lemon to hot water in the morning is a cleanse which has been used in the Aruyvedic tradition for thousands of years. There is nothing better and more freeing than feeling your body finally unburdened by the toxicity you may not even be aware that it is holding. At Modern Alchemy Acupuncture, we can discuss the best cleanse for your particular needs and lifestyle so you can continue on your journey towards optimal health and well-being.

Wellness Consultations

Wellness consultations provide individuals who cannot physically visit my office with a unique opportunity to consult with me by telephone regarding their health concerns. If you find that you live at a distance, or have family that live in another part of the country and would benefit from speaking with an experienced holistic practitioner who is knowledgeable in Chinese Medicine,

Nutritional Counseling and recommending nutritional supplements, then please give me a call and we can set up an appointment to address your particular concerns.

Our Patients

"Personal transformation can and does have global effects. As we go, so goes the world, for the world is us. The revolution that will save the world is ultimately a personal one."

- Marianne Williamson



Modern Alchemy Patients & Friends

My deepest and most sincere belief is that virtually everyone can be helped through Chinese Medicine, Acupuncture and Nutrition. Stress, Insomnia, Depression, Headaches, Allergies....it doesn't matter what the name of your ailment is because underlying any dis-ease or illness is a basic imbalance of qi in the body. Years of training and clinical experience have allowed practitioners of Chinese Medicine to detect and treat these subtle imbalances. Once a diagnosis is established we can use acupuncture and other natural therapies to achieve equilibrium in the system. This allows the body the potential and freedom to then heal itself. *This is the secret behind why this form of holistic and energetic medicine is so powerful.*

Please take a few moments to hear what other people, similar to you are saying about Modern Alchemy Acupuncture and Carlyn Montes De Oca.

"I had never tried acupuncture before and had always been afraid of it. But when my wife recommended it to help me with **stress**, I discovered how amazing it is. Carlyn is incredibly gentle and caring with her acupuncture treatments and each session feels like a mini vacation. I'm always under a lot of pressure due to work, and the regular sessions with Carlyn help me stay balanced and full of energy. She tailors the treatments to help with **stomach issues**, **back strain**, or whatever else is bothering me that week. She also gives great advice on nutrition and nutritional supplements to help me with a healthy lifestyle."

-J.F. Lawton, Screenwriter, "Pretty Woman", "Under Siege"

"In the world of health care practitioners, I feel fortunate to have discovered Carlyn, both for myself and for my coaching clients who are looking for solutions to their health care needs. I only refer my clients to other professionals I am completely confident will provide the best possible services. As an Acupuncturist and Nutritional Consultant, Carlyn is top flight in her dedication, her breadth of knowledge, her responsiveness to each individual, and of course her treatment skills. I can't recommend her too highly!"

-Ruth Kalter, Psy.D., True to Life Coaching

"I was referred to Carlyn Montes De Oca for nutrition and acupuncture, after a series of very disappointing and discouraging appointments, with some of the best allergy specialists in The Bay Area. After spending literally thousands of dollars on testing, with no definitive results, I was beginning to think I would never lead a normal, healthy life again.

Three different doctors told me that they could not find the cause of my frequent **allergy shock**, a condition that sent me to the emergency room frequently. My life was being constricted by the constant fear of another severe allergy shock, but I still had no idea what was causing the allergy.

When I consulted with Carlyn it was obvious that she is thorough, knowledgeable and meticulous, by her questions. She took the time to go over a detailed analysis of my collective symptoms, taking into account my diet and lifestyle. By the end of the appointment she had a well-based theory about my condition, and the relationship between my blood sugar and the allergy attacks.

It turns out that she was exactly right and my health along with my physician, have confirmed this. It is simply amazing to me that Carlyn was able to ascertain the cause of the problem, just by asking the right questions. Her logic was more valuable than any of the medical tests or advice I received from renowned experts!

I have not had one allergy shock episode since I went to see Carlyn. She helped me form a multi-faceted plan to treat my allergies, as well as other areas of concern such as nutrition. She has educated me on many valuable aspects of

how I can be in control of my own well-being, and I feel the benefits of her influence in my daily health. Carlyn is unusually caring, sincere and dedicated, and I would recommend her to anyone that I care about. She has my complete confidence."

- Anne M.

"My experience with **esoteric acupuncture** is that it is both gentle and powerful. I feel energetically cleansed and nourished when I'm receiving esoteric acupuncture, and I feel and sense connections and energy movement on various levels. Carlyn is a gentle and caring practitioner and I have found esoteric acupuncture to be very effective. Carlyn makes a careful assessment before each session, and she gently offers helpful suggestions for my health and well-being. After the acupuncture I feel relaxed and connected to my body. I've described it to friends as "the way I would feel after a really, really good massage, only different." It's like my whole body and soul have been tended to, and I leave feeling very good and with renewed dedication to my self-care and well-being."

-Sharon S.

"I went to Carlyn Montes De Oca after two months of excruciating **neck and shoulder pain**. Medications and my yoga practice had not helped to heal the injury or ease the discomfort, and my job at the time required me to sit at a desk, working on a computer, for hours. This only aggravated the injury. I walked around in a constant state of clenched shoulders and with a headache that would start around eleven a.m. and gain in ferocity throughout the day. I was unable to sleep at night due to discomfort. My haggard expression showed the toll the pain was taking on my system. At one point, I was ingesting so much Excedrin, Tylenol or Advil every day that I felt like I was single-handedly keeping the over the counter analgesic industry in business.

Needless to say, I was desperate for healing and relief. After the very first session of combined acupuncture and therapeutic massage, I walked out the door relaxed and heartened. The pain in my shoulder had receded and my headache was gone. Her acupuncture technique was painless and the offices were a soothing sanctuary of calm and regeneration. Carlyn also helped me

devise a balanced eating plan enhanced with supplements tailored to my specific health issues. After several more weeks under Carlyn's care, I felt better and my mood improved. Anyone who wants to get themselves healthy and better equipped to deal with their health should go see this exceptional and intuitive healer."

- Maria Jacquemetton, Writer & Producer, "Mad Men"

"I have tried several different acupuncturists and know how valuable treatments can be. But Carlyn has a special gift. Her sessions are incredibly relaxing and effective. I never realized how much better I could feel, both physically and mentally, until beginning regular treatments with Carlyn. Now instead of letting **knots, sore muscles, and stress** build up and dictate how I live, Carlyn addresses my problems and eases my mind. "

-Teresa Lawton, Executive Producer "Jackson"

"I have been really pleased with the success that has transpired with the health concerns that I presented with, to Carlyn Montes De Oca. She has remarkable skill in alleviating all of the concerns I have had. She is very calm and steady and gives a very comforting sense when I am in her care. I honestly am relieved of the complaints I had initially. Because of her excellent skill with acupuncture, I am planning to continue on a monthly basis with her in order to keep up the general good feeling I have received under her care. "

- Anne C.

"I recently went to see Carlyn because **my ankle and knee were swollen and completely covered in blisters** from an accident. After her treatment, the swelling had gone visibly down, my circulation was greatly improved, and I began to heal much quicker than before I had seen her. Carlyn takes the time to

explain how your health is intertwined with what is happening in your life and what you are feeding yourself. The changes in my health have been subtle yet deep. My stress level is lower and I have never felt better! I highly recommend Carlyn to everyone I know, whether they have a specific complaint or not."

- Jennifer J.

"I initially went to see Carlyn Montes De Oca at Modern Alchemy Acupuncture for **ongoing pain from two car accidents**. Not only has she helped me with my initial complaint of pain, but also with **PMS symptoms**, improving **my immune system** and improving my **energy level**. I really feel that she treats the whole body and mind, not just the pain. She has also advised me on nutrition, supplements and so much more.

I also think she is a caring person and I trust her. She is easy to talk to and very gentle. I highly recommend Carlyn for Acupuncture."

- Karima S.

"I am so happy that I went to see Carlyn! She is helping me to conquer my sugar addiction and has recommended some wonderful supplements. I have been feeling more balanced and am sleeping much better than I have in years. Carlyn was incredibly thorough in gathering information about me and as a result was able to give me a very in-depth analysis of the issues we needed to address. I am looking forward to beginning my acupuncture sessions with Carlyn to continue improving my overall health and well-being."

- Molly C.

To all of my wonderful patients who have graced and honored me with their presence and the opportunity to share in their journey.....thank you, thank you, thank you.

-Carlyn

About the Authors

Carlyn Montes De Oca L.Ac, M.T,O.M. Dipl. O.M., is a native of Carpinteria, California. After graduating from Loyola Marymount University, Carlyn worked in the motion picture industry in Los Angeles and Marin County. For almost twenty years she worked on such films as “Honey I Shrunk the Kids, Alive, and Three Men and a Little Lady.” During these years, Carlyn traveled extensively for work and pleasure to such places as the Middle East, Europe, South and Central America.

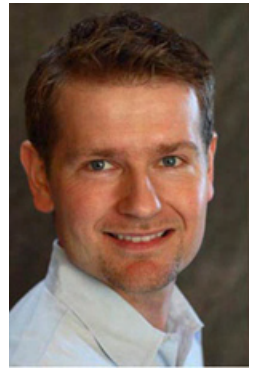


Despite the allure of the film industry, Carlyn’s deep desire was to do something more meaningful for others and the world. So she enrolled in the Masters program at Emperor’s College of Oriental Medicine while maintaining a full time job as Executive Director of Lawton Entertainment, Carlyn graduated Summa Cum Laude and has been working in a clinical and private setting since 2002. In addition to treating patients at Modern Alchemy Acupuncture, Carlyn also speaks publicly on Acupuncture, Nutrition and Holistic Health.

As a volunteer, Carlyn has focused her efforts on animal rescue and rehabilitation and lives with her husband, and six companion animals in Marin County. Her goal is to save the world, one animal and one person at a time.

If you would like to schedule an appointment or book a speaking engagement, please call 415.306.1853. You can also visit www.modernalchemyacupuncture.com for more information.

Kevin Doherty, L.Ac., Dipl.Ac., MSOM, has a passion for helping people like you live a spiritually connected, emotionally balanced, and physically thriving life. He received a bachelor's degree in Eastern religion and psychology at Naropa university in 1997 and a Master's degree in Oriental Medicine from Southwest Acupuncture College in 2001.



He completed a two-year continuing education program with Lonny Jarrett, M.Ac. in 2002.

Kevin is also a business coach and mentor and a seminar leader to many acupuncturists in the Denver metro area. He teaches extensively on Chinese herbology, pulse diagnosis, 5 element acupuncture, and practice management.

Kevin is a natural teacher and considers education to be an essential dimension of the healing process. He enjoys public speaking and has written a variety of articles on alternative health for various publications.

Please call Kevin's clinic, Boulder County Acupuncture, at 303.725.6208 to schedule an appointment or with any questions you may have.

Kevin's websites are www.purposeprinciple.com and www.bouldercountyacupuncture.com.