

Removing The Block

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Introduction

The following is continuation of our discussion of the pulse by illustrating its value through case presentations. This is the first.

This first case is meant to demonstrate its value in the management of a severe chronic illness and then the management of a debilitating acute illness that occurred in the course of the initial successful intervention. The management of the chronic illness is abbreviated and will be revisited in detail in another context

Presentation

The patient is a 50 year old woman whose original biomedical diagnosis was

- Addison's disease
- Pernicious Anemia
- Chronic Fatigue
- Fibromyalgia
- Hypothyroidism
- Depression
- Kidney Stone
- [Hypotension 34y]
- Malignant melanoma [removed without recurrence for several years]

- Her original symptoms involved
 - a total physical collapse, marked by the inability to focus or use her mind and inability to function for many years. She complained of spontaneous cold perspiration w/o exertion, tenderness on her entire body, sleep reversal, body & legs heavy & numb, irritable bowel, explosive b.m., palpitations at rest, hot flashes & night sweat that stop when awakes; cold-shiver, ventricular tachycardia, dependant edema in hands, headaches, easily startled during sleep, constipation for 5-6 days, constip→diarrhea in same movement and thirst large but often cannot drink.

- History

Apart from a stressful childhood Mrs. S. worked nights for 30 years while raising children and then grandchildren, cooked, cleaned and cared for a difficult mother while undergoing two divorces from men who offered no support. She was exposed for years to chemicals without protection while preparing drugs for chemotherapy and had multiple falls from horses.

- Pulse
 - The Change in Qualities in all of the Principal Positions representing the Zang organs indicated a Qi Wild ubiquitous Separation of Yin and Yang, the most severe of diagnosis possible.

- Initial Summary

Mrs. S. is a courageous 49 year old woman, with evidence of a True Qi deficiency and significant Kidney Qi-Yang-Jing deficiency, [adrenals, thyroid] leading to a Qi Wild condition of extreme physiologic chaos, especially of her Liver, Heart and Lungs. The Liver Separation of Yin & Yang, due largely to overwork, makes it difficult for her to retreat. There is strong evidence of trauma and shock to the Heart.

Driven by her fear of slipping into the grips of abusive, joyless childhood caretakers and dependant men and employing an extraordinary work-caretaking ethic to the point of exhaustion, she has depleted her endocrine system and produced the instability-deficiencies listed above.

There is evidence of severe depression [lack of joy], a propensity to depression [Kidney Yang-Jing deficiency (possibly constitutional), and other psychological problems including confusion and attention-concentration deficits, resignation and withdrawal and absence of a close interpersonal relationship. Evidence of neo-plastic activity is considerable, especially in the neuro-psychological position.

There are also signs of Damp Heat, Blood stagnation, significant Blood deficiency, Esophageal Qi-Food stagnation, toxicity and synthetic medications.

- Initial Treatment

- Our initial treatment was for Shock to the Heart and Trauma as explained in an earlier article where the recovery of the circulation from this condition [when present] is prerequisite to the success of all other interventions [a block]. This included i. Yunnan Bai Yao ii, Sheng Mai San [+Acorus], iii. Digestive Formula [Dr. John Shen] and the Yang Wei Mai [Preserver of Yang, Chronic Disease; DNA; Superficial Parts of Body; Fear of people; lack or excess of initiative; broken relationships; deep depression]
- Within two months her symptoms were greatly ameliorated and she was able to function again without the severe fatigue and fibromyalgia and mental fog. Within several months she entered a strenuous program learning an entirely new profession.
- Subsequently she was placed on a program of nourishing herbs for her Heart-Kidneys-Lungs, Damp Spleen and for Kidney Stone and her improvement continued.

- Ongoing

- In the second year of schooling for her new and demanding profession, she experienced a serious setback following a severe flu for two weeks [headache, fever, constipation to explosive diarrhea; loss of taste and smell]. In particular she was unable to focus or concentrate and her mind felt blank for several months with fatigue, perspiration, impaired concentration, sleep reversal, and a loss of taste and smell. There was severe abdominal burning with very cold above and very hot below the umbilicus on palpation, which was cleared with the Dai Mai and Conception Vessel Triple Burner Points from Ren-17 to Ren-5.

- Pulse examination revealed a Retained Pathogen evidenced by a Slippery and Pounding quality at the three aspects of the Organ Depth. This was interpreted as a Damp Heat condition in the Shao Yang.
- This was treated with the herbal formula Bupleurum and Cinnamon, a modification of Minor Bupleurum for deficient people with a Retained Pathogen at the Shao Yang.
- Within a week she began to feel better and her pulse no longer showed the Retained Pathogen [Slippery and Pounding quality at the three aspects of the Organ Depth], but was now Floating and Tense, a sign that the Retained Pathogen had moved to the Tai Yang level.
- We now gave her herbs to release the Tai Yang and to boost her Qi in order to help her get rid of the Pathogenic Factor. This occurred in a few days and she has since resumed her normal functioning.

Conclusion

- This patient is presented primarily to show how the pulse as practiced by Contemporary Pulse Diagnosis can be used to identify a Retained Pathogen [Slippery and Robust Pounding at the three depths of the Organ Depth] and to follow its course to resolution indicating each step of the way where the pathogen is lodged and the effectiveness of the intervention. There are no such positions in the TCM or 5 Element pulse.
- She was presented for this purpose in the context of her original situation to illustrate the value of the pulse in identifying an underlying massive defect and the presence in this pathological field of a sign, Shock and Trauma [Rough Vibration on the initial examination (First Impressions) with six fingers at once], the resolution of which alone seemed to be the key to allowing her own physiology to set her on the road to recovery. This reinforces the concept of blocks that must be addressed in the initial phase of treatment for optimal success, and that this block could not be identified on the TCM or 5 Element pulse as it was on the Contemporary Chinese Pulse.