

SHIATSU IN PREGNANCY

Shiatsu is one of only a few complementary therapies featured on the National Childbirth Trust's DVD/video given to all pregnant women in the UK.

RESEARCH:

The Effects of Shiatsu on Post-term Pregnancy.

Jennifer Ingram, Celina Domagala, Suzanne Yates. St Michael's Hospital, United Bristol Healthcare Trust, Southwell St, Bristol BS2 8EG. March to July 2000.

The objective of this research was to evaluate the effects of Shiatsu techniques, as taught by hospital midwives, on the progress of post-term labours and deliveries, to inform practice.

Results: Post-term women who used Shiatsu were significantly more likely to labour spontaneously than those who did not. Of those who had used Shiatsu, 17% more went into spontaneous labour compared to those who were not taught Shiatsu.

Optimal fetal positioning. The experience of a Shiatsu Practitioner.

Practising Midwifery. 2(11):20-2, 1999. Yates S.

Suzanne Yates is a Shiatsu practitioner and teacher and runs Shiatsu courses for midwives. The article focuses on her experience of useful body postures during pregnancy, the main emphasis is on the benefits of crawling and other all four movements. Suzanne states that the midwives participating on the courses encouraged her to write this article.

The effect of P6 acupressure (Shiatsu incorporates acupressure) for symptom control in pregnant women having hyperemesis gravidarum).

Article in Korean. [Shin HS](#), [Song YA](#).

College of Nursing Science, Kyung Hee University, Dongdaemun-gu, Korea.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of Nei-Guan(P6) acupressure on nausea and vomiting in pregnant women having hyperemesis gravidarum. **METHOD:** The research design was a randomized control-group pretest-posttest repeated measure design with counter balancing. For the experimental treatment, P6 acupressure was carried out for ten minutes. Data was collected from April 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004. The participants were 66 patients admitted with hyperemesis gravidarum. They were divided into three groups, a P6 acupressure group, placebo point group and a control group. **RESULT:** Hyperemesis gravidarum patients who received P6 acupressure during admission experienced much less nausea and vomiting than the placebo acupressure and control group ($F=8.259$, $p=.001$). **CONCLUSION:** Nei-Guan(P6) acupressure is considered an effective intervention for reducing nausea and vomiting in pregnant women having hyperemesis gravidarum. Further more Nei-Guan(P6) acupressure maybe used as an independent nursing intervention method for pregnant women with severe nausea and vomiting.

Publication Types: [Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

Effects of SP6 acupressure (Shiatsu incorporates acupressure) on labour pain and length of delivery time in women during labour.

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OBJECTIVE: The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effects of SP6 acupressure on labour pain and delivery time in women in labour. **DESIGN:** Randomized clinical trial. **SETTING/LOCATION:** Delivery room in a university hospital. **PARTICIPANTS:** Seventy-five (75) women in labour were randomly assigned to either the SP6 acupressure ($n = 36$) or SP6 touch control ($n = 39$) group. The participants were matched according to parity, cervical dilation, labour stage, rupture of amniotic membrane, and husband's presence during labour. There were no additional oxytocin augmentation or administration of analgesics during the study period. **INTERVENTION:** The 30-minute acupressure or touch on SP6 acupoint was performed. **OUTCOME MEASURES:** Labour pain was measured four times using a structured questionnaire, a subjective labour pain scale (visual-analogue scale [VAS]): before intervention, immediately after the intervention, and 30 and 60 minutes after the intervention. Length of delivery time was calculated in two stages: from 3 cm cervical dilation to full cervical dilatation, and full cervical dilatation to the delivery. **RESULTS:** There were

significant differences between the groups in subjective labour pain scores at all time points following the intervention: immediately after the intervention ($p = 0.012$); 30 minutes after the intervention ($p = 0.021$); and 60 minutes after the intervention ($p = 0.012$). The total labour time (3 cm dilatation to delivery) was significantly shorter in the SP6 acupressure intervention group than in the control group ($p = 0.006$).

CONCLUSIONS: These findings showed that SP6 acupressure was effective for decreasing labour pain and shortening the length of delivery time. SP6 acupressure can be an effective nursing management for women in labour. Publication Types: [Clinical Trial](#) & [Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

Effects of San-Yin-Jiao(SP6) acupressure (Shiatsu incorporates acupressure) on labour pain, delivery time in women during labour. Article in Korean. [Lee MK](#). Department of Nursing, Dankook University, Korea. maternity99@hanmail.net

PURPOSE: The study was done to examine the effects of San-Yin-Jiao(SP6) acupressure treatment on subjective labour pain, length of delivery time in women during labour. METHOD: The study design was a randomized controlled clinical trial study using a double-blinded method. Data were collected using a structured questionnaire, a subjective labour pain scale and measurement of delivery time. The experimental group($n=29$) was received SP6 acupressure and control group($n=29$), SP6 touch for the duration of each uterine contraction, during 30 minutes after 3 cm dilatation of cervical os. RESULT: The subjective labour pain scores was significantly different between the two groups($p=0.042$). The total length of delivery time in the group which had the SP6 acupressure was shorter than SP6 touch group ($p=0.036$). CONCLUSION: These findings showed that SP6 acupressure was effective related to labour pain, length of time for delivery. SP6 acupressure during labour could be applied as an effective nursing treatment.

PMID: 15314393 [PubMed]. 1: [Taehan Kanho Hakhoe Chi](#). 2003 Oct;33(6):753-61.

Differences of Cesarean Section Rates according to San-Yin-Jiao(SP6) acupressure (Shiatsu incorporates acupressure) for women in labour.

Article in Korean. [Chang SB](#), [Park YW](#), [Cho JS](#), [Lee MK](#), [Lee BC](#), [Lee SJ](#). [Taehan Kanho Hakhoe Chi](#). 2004 Apr;34(2):324-32. College of Nursing, Yonsei University, Korea RIHHPC.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this study was to explain differences of cesarean section rates according to San-Yin-Jiao(SP6) acupressure for women in labour. METHOD: A non equivalent control group pre test--post test design was used to explain differences of cesarean section rates according to SP6 acupressure. The participants were 209 women who were assigned to one of three groups SP6 acupressure($n=86$), SP6 touch($n=47$), and control group($n=76$). For 30 minutes, the SP6 acupressure group received SP6 acupressure, and the SP6 touch group received SP6 touch for the duration of each uterine contraction. The Control group was encouraged to deep breath and relax for the duration of each uterine contraction for 30 minutes. RESULT: The rates of cesarean section were 12.8%, 29.8%, and 22.4% for the SP6 acupressure group, SP6 touch group, and control group respectively. There was a significant difference among groups ($p=0.049$). Cesarean section rates were significantly different between the SP6 acupressure and non-SP6 acupressure group($p=0.035$).

CONCLUSION: This finding shows that 30 minutes of SP6 acupressure was effective in decreasing the cesarean section rate. Therefore, SP6 acupressure during labour could be applied as an effective nursing intervention.

PMID: 15314328 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Effects of LI4 and BL 67 acupressure on labour pain and uterine contractions in the first stage of labour.

[Chung UL](#), [Hung LC](#), [Kuo SC](#), [Huang CL](#). [J Nurs Res](#). 2003 Dec;11(4):251-60. National Taipei College of Nursing, No. 365 Ming-Te Road, Peitou, Taipei 112, Taiwan, ROC.

Acupressure is said to promote the circulation of blood and qi, the harmony of yin and yang, and the secretion of neurotransmitters, thus maintaining the normal functions of the human body and providing comfort. However, there has been little research-based evidence to support the positive effects of acupressure in the area of obstetric nursing. The purpose of this study is to determine the effect of LI4 and BL67 acupressure on labour pain and uterine contractions during the first stage of labour. An experimental study with a pretest and posttest control group design was utilized. A total of 127 parturient women were randomly assigned to three groups. Each group received only one of the following treatments, LI4 and BL67 acupressure, light skin

stroking, or no treatment/conversation only. Data collected from the VAS and external fetal monitoring strips were used for analysis. Findings indicated that there was a significant difference in decreased labour pain during the active phase of the first stage of labour among the three groups. There was no significant difference in effectiveness of uterine contractions during the first stage of labour among the three groups. Results of the study confirmed the effect of LI4 and BL67 acupressure in lessening labour pain during the active phase of the first stage of labour. There were no verified effects on uterine contractions.

Publication Types: [Clinical Trial](#) & [Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

PMID: 14685931 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Acupuncture and acupressure (Shiatsu incorporates acupressure). Applications to women's reproductive health care.

[Beal MW](#). Yale University School of Nursing, New Haven, CT 06536-0747, USA. [J Nurse Midwifery](#). 1999 May-Jun;44(3):217-30. [J Midwifery Womens Health](#). 2000 Jan-Feb;45(1):84.

An introduction to the therapeutic applications, history, and theory of acupuncture and acupressure is presented. The traditional concepts that underlie treatment of imbalances of ch'i, or vital energy, are presented, along with the theories of yin and yang, meridians, vital substances, pathogenic factors, five phases, and the eight principle patterns. Contemporary Western research findings on the biochemical mediaries and effects of acupuncture are reviewed. Clinical applications to women's reproductive care that are presented include treatment for dysmenorrhea, infertility, and childbearing. Data on clinical trials are reviewed, and licensure and educational preparation for practice of these modalities are discussed.

Publication Types: [Review](#)

PMID: 10380442 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Name of client: Fiona Hamilton

Age: 33

Occupation: Legal Secretary

Name of Practitioner: Sara Browne, MRSS

What were your main reasons for receiving Shiatsu?

To try to help with fertility issues.

Do you feel Shiatsu has helped?

Yes

If yes, in what ways?

Since starting Shiatsu I have noticed that I am releasing much more deep-rooted emotion – especially the day after receiving treatment. This has been important for me and has now left me feeling much more positive about my situation. My energy levels have also improved.

How does Shiatsu compare to other therapies you have received?

I have received acupuncture in the past which I have found calming, but the Shiatsu has definitely had a much more powerful and positive effect on me.

SHIATSU-DO, PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH by Ray Ridolfi, 1993

Enhancing the process and dealing with specific conditions. By Ray Ridolfi. Copyright 1993

Treating a disease after it has arisen is the lowest level of healthcare and treatment. Quote from The Nei Ching. Preparing your Shiatsu-Do partner for pregnancy and assessing her 'potential' is being a greater friend than relieving her stress during her gestation. Everything in nature moves in ephemeral cycles of birth, life, and death. In our modern western society we celebrate the birth and mourn the death as a beginning and ending of a life. Other more traditional cultures may take a more celebratory view of the whole cycle as having no beginning and no end, simply a cycle.

The creation of new life and the birthing process is thought to be the highest spiritual experience. Women may achieve it and men can only wonder. It is for this reason that I, a man and father, have a particular interest in this field of Shiatsu-Do healthcare. I feel greatly complimented by those women who have sought my professional assistance in their pregnancy healthcare.

The Oriental philosophy draws a parallel between life in the womb and to the 2.8 billion years of the evolution of life on earth as it developed in the 'Water Phase.' This amphibian period is thought to correspond to 280 days of pregnancy in which the foetus evolves from a single cell to a multi cellular being. 'One grain, ten thousand grains', as the Chinese would say. So from this we can deduce that 10 million years of evolution is occurring for every day of pregnancy. Pretty serious news. Every day of pregnancy helps for a more 'developed phase, we are in a meditative state of cosmic learning. There is little disturbance from the Jing. The 'resonance' of our entire evolutionary past is stored here. We 'know' how to breathe at conception (the real birth period is simply preparation for the land state and the birthing process is the initiation into gradual independence. We will teach ourselves how to eat, see, smell, taste, crawl, walk, talk and think.

At birth this information initiates a life pattern in the Land Phase; LUNG energy for breathing independently air and not liquid, The TRIPLE WARMER has to spark into life to heat the child outside of the warm water state, HEART PROTECTOR for emotional/spiritual protection outside of the secure womb. The providing of a happy and secure environment for the foetus 'in embryo' and subsequently for entry into the Land Phase needs to be the underlying principle for parental care and Shiatsu assistance. Loving tender kindness really. The Japanese talk of Tai Kyo, 'Embryo education.' The parents should educate their child about life in the 'outside' world through happy thoughts and feelings.

EARLY INDICATIONS OF PREGNANCY

The Woman may experience amenorrhoea, breast swelling, sickness, fatigue (progesterone in blood stream acts as a tranquilliser, relaxation, 'blossoming'), colour change (facial hue, change in metabolic rate, revulsion at fatty, oily food all relate to Liver function', Spleen function, sweet cravings), increase in frequency of micturation, swelling or weight gain, self-awareness (may know intuitively from moment of conception).

Conception can occur in fallopian tube within 60 minutes of ejaculation. Sperm passes through acidic medium of uterus to the more alkaline fallopian tube. After fertilisation of the ovum by sperm, the magnetic charge of the ovum changes and it no longer attracts more sperm. The internal diameter of the fallopian tube is only two hairs breadth, so it is easily blocked by scar tissue; inflammation, adhesions, wearing an IUD can aggravate the area. After a day or two the fertilised ovum journeys to the uterus for implantation and sustenance by blood in the Blood Chamber, a Chinese description of the womb. The Chinese also called the uterus the 'Palace of the Child'. A single cell can produce an 8lb baby, an increase in size of 3 billion times.

The structure of and deep location of the ovum is yin with Yin energy action (stationary) while that of the sperm is yang with a Yang action (movement) generated by heat. The yin and yang polarity attracts the sperm and ovum. Because the Chinese did not have microscopic investigations they believed that conception occurred as a result of the mixing of the women's 'red' essence, the menstrual blood, and the male 'white' essence, the sperm. The first eight weeks are designated the embryo stage, after that, foetus (= 'young person', Latin).

The traditional approach to conception observed many considerations of the laws of nature and culture in China. The optimum conception time is thought to be in the Lung phase, that is, between 3 am and 5am. No doubt late night discos were popular even then. Conception in the Autumn, gestation during Winter and Spring, and birth in Summer was also thought preferable. Situations adverse to a happy pregnancy were conceived during the following: an electrical storm, at midnight, at midday, during a rainbow, during the winter of summer solstice, when intoxicated, or when 'hot diseases' are apparent. For most of these times the environmental energy is too highly charged and will affect the conception. The mother is advised to avoid any violent and frightening scenes or situations during pregnancy. Care needs to be taken to remain calm and serene. That's easy.

CONSIDERATIONS OF CHANGES IN ENERGY SYSTEM OF THE MOTHER

From conception there are profound changes in Zang organs of the mother. These 'vital' organs will have to cope with the support and maintenance of two 'beings'. The foetal Original or Yuan Ki, initiated at the moment of the polarity charge between ovum and sperm, sustains it until the placenta develops. From the cosmic 'charge' of the yin/yang attraction there appears a preponderance of Blood and Ki. The Blood congeals as the Heart sends the blood to nourish the embryo in the womb. The foetus will then exist off the mothers Blood, that is, the energy created by the Liquid essence of her Spleen, the Original and Acquired Ki of her Kidney energy, and the circulation and sustenance of the Heart. This Blood quality will be the nourishment for her child. The Fire of conception continues to ensure the Blood nurtures them both. The function of the Spleen is challenged as the increase of Damp prevails to form the amniotic fluid to nourish and protect the embryo. The Spleen will become Deficient. The Liver Ki will maintain the patency of the flow of the energy in the womb and indeed both the mother and foetus, the Liver will become Excess. Because the mother is supplying her Yuan Ki and the Kidney yin and Kidney yang her Kidney Ki will become Deficient. The 'Furnace in her Belly' should continue to warm them as long as she 'listens' to her body signals. All these changes are considered symptoms of a single causation, that is , pregnancy and are normal.

Pulses: A Slippery full pulse, slightly faster, will be apparent after about the sixth week. Spleen and Kidney Deficiency and Liver Excess is very common. The Pulse is larger and more superficial than usual. A larger Left pulse (Yang) means a boy, the right (Yin) a girl. It is also considered that if conception occurs on an odd date of the month then it will be a boy and a girl on the even dates.

1ST TRIMESTER. 0-12 WEEKS.

Non-interference should be the golden rule. Support and nurturing attention is usually all that is needed. Little or no Shiatsu unless strengthening is needed. (See the section on 'Miscarriage' herein). Concentrate on the Body Rhythm Dural tube balancing and releasing the horizontal planes of the Chakra system and nurturing the mother. In a treatment you are now working with two people, mother and child.

2ND TRIMESTER. 13-27 WEEKS

The 'period of miscarriage', if this condition was prevalent, is now passed and you may start to give Shiatsu monthly as maintenance. Treat specific conditions if arising. Still avoid strong stimulation below pelvis, strong ampuku, strong stretches.

3RD TRIMESTER. 28-40 WEEKS

Can do more leg work. Continue maintenance of mother and have the father, upon both parents agreeing, attend treatments to learn basic pain relief and baby contacting techniques. Avoid contraindicated points unless treating specific conditions such as 'breech' position. Turning a 'breech' by energy contact through the Body Rhythm is possible.

FOETAL MERIDIAN DEVELOPMENT:

At conception the energetic union stimulates the transformation of the single cell structure to a multi cellular one. The electro magnetic charge polarised by conception, existing in the fertilised ovum creates a protective force field around itself. This polarisation comes from a central axis in the ectoderm (inner fascia) and permeates through the endoderm (intermediate fascia) and mesoderm (superficial fascia). This axis is referred to by Kiko Matsumoto as the 'primitive streak'. I will refer to this as the Chong Mai or Central Channel. When the Ovum divides, the walls of the two cells are joined and become the location of the Chong Mai. The outer walls will become the Ren Mai or Conception Vessel and the Du Mai or Governing Vessel respectively.

The Chong mai develops and creates a 'Source' area which becomes the sacral plexus encompassing the ming men (Kidney Yupoint) and a secondary 'Source' area which becomes the occipital/cervical junction. The yin and yang polarity of these locations charges the spinal cord into development to produce the central nervous system. The brain and spinal cord are Curious Organs and considered to be Marrow and thus governed by the

Kidney Ki. The prenatal Jing provides the information for its development. From the Su mai the spinal nerves eventually grow as the meridian pathways circulate to create the organs and physical attachments of the spinal nerves. Hence the Yu Associated Affect Points reflect this manifestation. The more yang influenced upper limb buds develop firstly and then the lower yin buds come.

CONTRAINDICATED POINTS ARE:

'Shoulder Well' GB21, 'Adjoining Valleys' L14, 'Arm Three Mile' L110 (cautionary point only), 'Three Yin Junction' SP6, 'Foot Three Miles' ST36, 'Great Thoroughfare' LV3, 'Gushing Spring' KD1, 'Reaching Yin' BL67 (until final stages). The above points are principally contraindicated for needling and moxa. Can give Shiatsu to feet, if the feet are sore, or to shoulders, but avoid deep pressure. Avoid strong KID treatments throughout but Kidney will be deficient and needing nurturing gently. Generally, avoid concentrated stimulation inferior to the pelvis in 1st and 2nd Trimester and inferior to knee in 3rd Trimester. (You can use some contraindicated points to remedy specific conditions as part of set treatment formulas.)

LABOUR – some specific treatments

1ST STAGE

INDUCING LABOUR

Labour overdue or 'Lazy' – usually overweight and atonic woman. Stimulate L14, SP6, GB21, BL67, if no response in 6-8 hours try GV1, BL67, L14, SP[^].

Indian take-away. Hot, spicy food, very yin, expelling. Later LV3 for muscle chi.

Speeding slow labour – Stimulate SP6, L1V3, BL31, L14, GB21. Standing, squatting, general movement with Do-In, warm shower.

Maintaining strength – Ume-sho-bancha tea, or Ginseng tea to prevent atony of uterus. Ki and Blood stagnation – Dark blue complexion in labour, swollen loins, heavy chest, depression, tearful, 'I can't go on', Pulse is deep and solid and irregular. Give whole body treatment especially tonify SP, KID, HT, for the Blood stagnation.

Contraction, dilation of cervix to 10cm. Normally proceeds at approx. 1cm/hour. **NB** can get homeopathic birth kit.

2ND STAGE

LABOUR PAIN relief points in the Birth process- Sacral and lumbar Bladder points, ST36, BL60. Pain relief points can actually slow the contractions so be observant. Only use these for the bigger painful contractions and for 5-10 seconds. Holding the cranial base to relieve neck tension will ease the pelvs.

3RD STAGE

PLACENTA RETENTION

To discharge without drugs. Vitality important that whole of placenta is discharged. A Cold stagnation condition. Need to expel the cold. GB21, BL60, 5mins. L14, SP6, BL67, (CV3 Moxa). Mother to blow into a bottle. Doctors use Syntometine. Cord should not be cut until it stops pulsing.

HAEMORRHAGING IN CHILDBIRTH

Blood or SP deficiency usually needs tonification and heat. Tonify SP especially SP6, SP9, SP15, ST36, TH6 for long duration until the meridian response is strong. THEN Moxa CV4, CV6, CV8, & ST36, if no obvious response within 10-15 minutes. Pan-fried hair, powdered, mixed with water to make a drink. Good for internal bleeding.

(ARNICA 30) Homeopathic tablets for post partum repair. Seek specific Homeopathic or Herbal for any birth complications.)

CAESAREAN SECTION

Most C.Sections are unnecessary. 80% of 'breech' babies can be delivered vaginally if time and consideration are allowed. In labour chemical releases dry out the lungs and stimulate kidneys and liver into healthy functioning. A woman is five times more likely to die after C.Section than vaginal birth experience. (Ref: W.D.D.T.Y.Vol 3 No 10 Energetic disturbances upset LV/KID/SP meridians. Scar tissue formation will cause further complications in pelvic viscera. Consider the relevance of counselling, visualisation, pelvic floor exercises, support from religious groups, services and family.

Treatments can focus on CV, Dural tube, lower abdomen (ampuku, palm healing for lower burner), TH, AP, LV & KID meridians. Magnet therapy over the scar tissue. Body rhythm fascia release of deep fascia. (this can be done from one week post partum.

OTHER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

ABORTION

Putting aside the moral, cultural, or sociological considerations of this situation, the choice is the parents and should be respected without judgement. An abortion will disturb the physical and energetic centre in the hara as it is removed by external force. Unfortunately, this will leave a void and cold deficiency condition in the womb. The natural body process of Energy concentration for pregnancy is disturbed, it doesn't know what to do, becomes erratic and dispersed. This may affect the pscho/physical and spiritual bodies. The 'needs' of the mother must be paramount. What does she want to do with the pregnancy. Your Shiatsu needs to work on inward focussing energy following abortion with 'self-image' Spleen attention, May lead to Blood stagnation, tumours, cysts, pelvic inflammatory disorders, cystitis, lower burner deficiency. Liver of lower burner becomes deficient and does not 'draw' the Blood. The Blood Chamber, the uterus, may become congested with stagnant blood. Reduces chi flow to lower body, poor libido, coldness in womb. Tonify Spleen, Liver, Kidney. CV points of lower burner can be Moxaed especially CV8.

MISCARRIAGE – motion of the foetus

More a natural shutting down of hormonal system. Try and encourage the mother to see positive aspects. Not ready. Now try again. Change in lifestyle, diet, exercise. Have chance to prepare for future pregnancy. Tonify the pelvis as with abortion. Hara pumping techniques to be used. Navel moxa if not contra-indicated. Meditation and chanting with an 'offering' of salt, water, rice, and incense for the harmonious departure of the spirit of the child may be helpful and to prevent karmic attachment to the mother of this spirit. The spirit chooses you as parents and will be born when it is ready. This is a Buddhist belief. Consider whether your Shiatsu partner would be open to this suggestion before giving advice.

PREVENTION: You may even see the indications for these etiologies apparent preconception, early diagnosis is necessary. Commonly a Deficiency condition but can be due to Excess. Six Types of miscarriage preconditions are usually apparent.

General Ki deficiency – frequent vaginal bleeding, fainting, abdominal swelling, cold aversion, poor appetite. General tonification needed.

Blood Deficiency – lower hara drops, swelling, dizziness, yellow complexion, puffiness, weak pulse, palpitations. SP.KID.HT.LIV to tone the Blood.

Hot Blood – menstrual type flow, bright red, red complexion, heat in upper body, cold feet, sore dry throat, scanty hot urine. Check for KID sedation, tonify the LU and SP if necessary.

Liver Ki congestion – painful foetal motion, vaginal bleeding, vomiting or bilious taste, thick greasy yellow tongue coating, rapid pulse. Sedate LIV, liver vacuum technique, diaphragm release, tonify the Kidney and Spleen.

Traumatic injury – an external causation. Determine the energy trauma (where is the Ki ‘information’ interrupted?)

STILLBIRTH

Energetically possibly similar to miscarriage. Could be caused by cord around neck (even a knot). Smoking can predispose. Suggest counselling for both parents and give support through shiatsu. Subsequent conception should be delayed for nine to twelve months and strengthening ensured. A Deficiency syndrome will be apparent in the general Ki especially of the womb. Homeopathic or Herbal advice would be helpful. The same ritual as in ‘Miscarriage’ may be helpful.

MASTITIS

Treat S11, SP18, SP6, ST18, ST34, LV3, GB21. Assess each point. This is a Hot disease=Excess. Bring down energy in the body. Breast massage. Axilla massage. Try ST17, subject to sensitivity of client. Warm the hara.

POOR LACTATION

Rest and attention to diet is needed. The mother should be allowed to rest for at least three weeks after birthing to give all her attention to her own recovery and developing the mother/child relationship. You can Moxa CV17, treat GB21, S11, L14, SP6, BL13, ST17, and HT1. Dural tube balancing. Other influencing factors; poor post partum recovery, alcohol and smoking intake, drugs during childbirth, emotional state, ‘can I cope?’, mother’s desire to return to work, environmental considerations.

BREECH POSITION

From around 36 weeks it is safe to use moxa for this situation. Moxa B67 if possible on successive days until it works. This is usually successful. Teach mother to do it. Moxa five to six times. Mark the point with a pen. Also she can lie down with open legs resting against a wall, with groin close to wall as possible. Lie on the floor (back pillow supports) with legs on a chair for twenty minutes daily. Make an ‘energy contact’ with the foetus through the fascia and feel which direction in which the foetus will move, follow this movement until the head is down. The anterior occiput attitude is optimum. This technique can be applied daily by partner or a friend.

OEDEMA

This is commonly a Spleen deficiency with Blood stagnation in the hara. Indications may be; the four limbs, face, eyes and groin are swollen. Coldness (hara), yellow or dark skin colour, mucus, swelling lymph nodes, sticky mouth, aversion to cold and need for hot drinks. Tongue has light coating in lower body, sometimes hotness in head. Looks like bruising around swelling eye bags. Tonify all areas moxa CV8, give Daikon Drink number Two ½ cup grated daikon or radish, squeeze juice into warm water ratio of 1:3 daikon to water, add several drops of shoyu or sea salt, bring to boil and simmer one minute. Drink once daily for three days maximum. Increases sweating and urination. Exercise to sweat every day will help. Control liquid intake.

ANAEMIA

This is a Blood Deficiency syndrome. A pallid complexion, pale lips and eyelids, pale fingernails, lacking vitality, breathlessness, palpitations, sore tongue (inflamed), headaches. Need to tonify the Blood – Spleen, Kidney, and Heart. Moxa at GV22, TH6, and SP10. Mugwort tea or Ume-sho-banch daily. Two sheets of toasted Nori eaten daily (from Holland and Barret)

MORNING SICKNESS

There are three types.

1. Rotten and muddy ki rebelling – belching of ‘offensive energy’, abdominal swelling, congested lung, depression, hiccoughs. Clear the stomach energy by treating (usually sedation) HG6, ST36, ST44. (Note it is generally to use some contraindicated tsubo if part of a treatment formula).
2. Muscous and fluid toxin – Disturbance of the Zang organs, the vital organs are suffering shock. Dizziness, vomiting water liquid, white coated tongue, low energy, coldness. Treat the above plus ST40 and can moxa CV17.
3. Rising Fire of Liver – Kidney energy is exhausting in the uterus, the Liver lacks Yin and dries, this damages the Stomach Ki. Bitter taste, belching, rib pain, hypochondriac pain, rapid wiry pulse. Formula number 1 plus sedate LIV2 and GB34.

Generally, eat dry biscuits (oatcake or rice cake) and consume bancha tea, avoid caffeine and alcohol.

CHRONIC COUGH DURING PREGNANCY

1. Wind and cold penetration – thin white tongue coating, continual cough, fatigue, sporadic mild fever, clear sputum, congested chest, tight diaphragm, short breath. Lung Vacuum techniques, release the diaphragm, tonify the LU, sedate the LIV if necessary. External cause.
2. Sputum chronic cough – white greasy tongue coating, frothy clear sputum, vomiting, poor appetite. Internal cause – Dural tube balancing, Spleen and Kidney tonification, percussion techniques over lungs to expel the sputum.
3. Yin deficiency chronic cough – red tongue with little coating, dizziness, heat in body, dry mouth, thirst for cold drinks, blood in sputum or green sputum, rapid pulse. Tonify the yin, LU BO & YU points, KID tonify, sedate Th and/or LI. Lung percussion and diaphragm release, rebalance Dural tube.

For more details, see ‘Maye’s Midwifery’ (Balliere Tindall). Recommended for expectant parents are Dr. Miriam Stoppard’s ‘Pregnancy & Birth Book’, ‘Active Birth by Janet Balsakas, Bob Flaws ‘The Path of Pregnancy’, the latter giving a traditional Chinese medical viewpoint. ‘Tsubo’ by Namikoshi, ‘Acupuncture Medicine’ by Yoshiaki Omura, the ‘Shiatsu-Do Handbook’ by Ray Ridolfi, ‘Macrobiatic Home’ remedies by Michio Kushi, ‘Endometriosis and Infertility’ by Bob Flaws. Hara Diagnosis: Reflections on the Sea by Kiko Matsumoto and Stephen Birch.

CASE STUDY – MRS A

A is 34 married and trying to conceive her first child. She is of slight build very pale with a dark hue and dark circles under her eyes. She is quietly spoken with a soft voice and is not very forthcoming. She has come for Shiatsu to aid her recovery after surgery and to support her whilst she is trying to conceive. She works in production for the B.B.C. It’s a pressurised work environment in which personal problems or illnesses are not supported, she has difficulty asserting herself at work. She has a close relationship with her parents, her partner is finding it difficult to relate to her feelings after surgery. She feels emotional tearful and exhausted. A has a healthy varied diet and exercises regularly. She smokes 5-10 cigarettes a day. She is normally calm but finds she becomes irritable premenstrually.

MEDICAL HISTORY

A and her partner have been trying to conceive for 3 years. She had a dye lap which discovered endometriosis. She has a history of menstrual problems with painful heavy periods, pain starting before menstruation and carrying on nearly all the way through. Her breasts would also become swollen and tender around her period. She has suffered on and off with lower back -ache, worse at night.

She had surgery a month before coming for treatments on her uterus for the endometriosis and is now taking drugs to enhance ovulation. They are thinking of going for IVF, the drugs to stimulate ovulation may only be taken for a maximum of 1 year and she had started taking them 6 months before her surgery.

PRESENTING SYMPTOMS

Since her surgery, A is still getting stabbing pains in her lower abdomen and uterus. She is fatigued physically and emotionally. Normally a good sleeper, she goes to sleep and wakes up at 2-3 am, feels tearful and worries about treatment and conceiving. She has also been feeling irritable, short tempered, worse since taking drugs for ovulation.

A, feels and dislikes the cold, has to urinate often, which is clear and more at night. Since her surgery her lower backache has got worse. She is also holding tension around her shoulders.

PRESENTING IN PREGNANCY

Feeling very tired, her movements are slow, she has oedema mainly in her lower body, legs and feet, weak aching knees and lower back, she is also suffering from a lot of breathlessness.

DIAGNOSIS

T.C.M.

In T.C.M. terms Endometriosis is linked to stagnation of liver blood. A's history of P.M.S. heavy painful periods, painful swollen breasts, difficulty asserting herself, unhappiness, irritability and stressful work situation could have resulted in stagnation of Liver Qi. Liver Qi stagnation would have interfered with A's menstruation as liver regulates menstruation, which over time probably led to liver Blood stagnation and the more serious condition of endometriosis. During her medical treatment A experienced feelings of short temper and irritability which were the affect of taking ovulation drugs. It is probable that these drugs would further influence her liver Qi stagnation as during this time she was irritable and began to wake between 2 and 3 am. (Liver time).

Also has signs of kidney Yang deficiency this is shown by her feelings of cold, especially in her limbs, aversion to cold and lower back ache, exhaustion, darkish complexion and dark circles under her eyes, difficulty in becoming pregnant, her frequent urination clear in colour, quiet voice little desire to speak and lack of ability to assert herself, all reinforce a kidney Yang deficiency present.

From the onset of pregnancy, the oedema in the lower part of her body was accompanied by tired weak legs and knees.

Poor kidney Qi also account for A's symptoms of breathlessness as it is the kidneys which grasp the Qi of the lungs.

The liver blood stagnation and kidney Yang deficiencies would also account for poor spleen function. The loss of blood during surgery, and worry about becoming pregnant could have contributed to weakening A's spleen Qi. Her deep fatigue and stabbing pains in lower abdomen show that the function of the spleen to raise the Qi is impaired.

During treatments I used visual diagnosis. In treatment 4 I used Zen Hara diagnosis. A's kidney channel and spleen were depleted and liver energy stuck around shoulders, legs and pelvis, which appears to support the T.C.M. diagnosis.

TREATMENTS

Treatment 1. 02/03/04

A looked depleted, dark circles under her eyes, collapsed posture, energy looked flat, spleen, kidney meridians low. Treatment focus to support spleen, kidneys. I included kidney 1, spleen 6 for this.

Treatment 2 & 3. 09/03/04 16/03/04

Energy held around hips, shoulders. Full liver/GB gentle dispersing, rotation, stretches, massage. Using liver 13 to eliminate stagnation, harmonise spleen. Liver 3, GB 34 were effective to smooth flow of Qi. To tonify spleen, kidneys I used Kidney 7 to strengthen kidney Yang, Kid 6 Nourish Uterus, spleen 3 to tonify. Spleen 10, bleeding and pain due to Stagnation of blood.

Treatment 4 30/03/04

A had a cold, lung was Kyo in hara diagnosis. I continued to use points to tonify kidneys. GV4 BL 23, Tonify Yang. I added Lung 1 for lungs, and ease coughing. Also dispersed Liver, GB.

A similar pattern continued for treatments 5, 6, 7, pm 06/04/04, 20/04/04, 27/04/04.

By number 7 A's kidney energy was much improved. She looked more robust, circles under eyes gone, spleen less depleted.

Recommendation: I showed A Makaho kidney B1 stretch, liver GB complementary.

After treatment 7, A had a break while having IVF. She'd be taking hormones, and didn't want to disturb this process.

Treatment 8 10/08/04

A is 12 weeks pregnant with twins, has a strong connection with babies. During treatment, 9, 10, 11 on 07/09/04, 05/10/04, 09/11/04. My focus was to support her pregnancy, ease breathlessness. I supported kidneys, working KID-UT and PV using HP6 and spleen 4 to balance PV. Holding Kidney 3, BL23 gently, Kidney 7 for oedema. I gently mobilised her joints. Recommended sitting with legs up – gentle massage.

TREATMENT RESULTS

During her course of treatments A experienced the following change in appearance, she lost dark circles under her eyes and dark hue to her face and expressed herself with a clearer louder voice. She looked more vital and robust. By treatment 5, A had stopped smoking and found she was able to express her irritability more openly at work, became more organised and decisive, a change her colleagues commented on.

She felt much more energy and noticed a definite change after first treatment. Her back became stronger and less achy and the stabbing pain in her abdomen stopped. By treatment 7 these improvements had consolidated to the point at which she felt confident to start her IVF. She had a successful first round of IVF treatment. Her chronic pattern of kidney spleen deficiencies manifested during the pregnancy showing in oedema in the lower part of the body, painful knees, tiredness and breathlessness, but these were stabilised by the Shiatsu without the need of medical intervention.

CONCLUSIONS

A felt an immediate effect from receiving Shiatsu, feeling much more stable, vital and able to express herself more fully. This gave her a settled basis to embark on her IVF.

After successfully becoming pregnant she had a full term pregnancy, and gave birth by caesarean to healthy twins, that weighed the same as single babies. They are now all home safely and doing well.

Heidi Armstrong