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## Treating Thyroid Problems with Acupuncture

Acupuncture has been used to treat men's health concerns for thousands of years and is growing in popularity. The reason for this growth in popularity is that many health issues that men face, such as high blood pressure, prostate problems and depression, respond extremely well to acupuncture treatments.



**Here is a list of five health issues that affect men and how acupuncture can help:**

### **Cardiovascular Disease**

Cardiovascular disease is the leading men's health threat with heart disease and stroke topping the list of the first and second leading causes of death worldwide. By integrating acupuncture and Oriental medicine into your heart healthy lifestyle, you can dramatically reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease.

Taking small steps to improve your health can reduce your risk for cardiovascular disease by as much as eighty percent. Steps to prevention include managing high blood pressure, quitting smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, reducing stress and improved sleep - all of which can be helped with acupuncture.

Acupuncture has been found to be particularly helpful in lowering blood pressure. By applying acupuncture needles at specific sites along the wrist, inside the forearm or in the leg, researchers have been able to stimulate the release of opioids, which decreases the heart's activity and its need for oxygen. This, in turn, lowers blood pressure.

### **Lung Cancer**

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in men. Tobacco smoke causes ninety percent of all lung cancers. If you are ready to quit smoking, acupuncture can help.

Acupuncture has shown to be an effective treatment for smoking. Acupuncture treatments for addiction and smoking cessation focus on jitters, cravings, irritability, and restlessness; symptoms that people commonly complain about when they quit. It also aids in relaxation and detoxification.

In one study on substance addiction, a team from Yale University successfully used auricular (ear) acupuncture to treat cocaine addiction. Results showed that fifty-five percent of participants tested free of cocaine during the last week of treatment, compared to twenty-four percent and nine percent in the two control groups. Those who completed acupuncture treatment also had longer periods of sustained abstinence compared to participants in the control groups.

## Prostate Health

The prostate is prone to enlargement and inflammation as men age, affecting about half of men in their sixties and up to ninety percent of men as they approach their seventies and eighties. If left untreated, benign prostate gland enlargement, which presents with symptoms such as frequent nighttime urination, painful urination, and difficult urination, can lead to more serious conditions such as prostate cancer, urinary tract infections, bladder or kidney damage, bladder stones, and incontinence.

Acupuncture and Oriental medicine can be used to treat prostate problems to relieve the urinary symptoms and prevent the more serious conditions from occurring. The few studies completed on acupuncture and prostatitis show positive results with participants noticing an marked improvement in their quality of life, decrease in urinary difficulties, and an increase in urinary function.

## Depression and Mental Health

Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death among all men; for young men it's higher. While experts previously thought depression affected far more women than men, it is now believed that that men's tendency to hide depressed feelings and not seek professional help has skewed the numbers.

When suffering from depression, brain chemicals and stress hormones are out of balance. Sleep, appetite, and energy level are all disturbed. Acupuncture and Oriental medicine can alleviate symptoms associated with depression and mental health issues by helping to rebalance the body's internal environment.

The growing body of research supporting the positive effects of acupuncture on depression, anxiety, insomnia, and chronic pain syndrome is so strong that the military now uses acupuncture to treat troops with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and combat stress syndrome.

## Sexual Health

While sexual health concerns may not be life threatening, they can still signal significant health problems. Two-thirds of men older than seventy and up to thirty-nine percent of forty year old men report having problems with their sexual health.

Acupuncture and Oriental medicine are well known for improving men's sexual performance; in fact, there have been medical textbooks devoted to the subject. Chinese Emperors took their sexual health quite seriously and would consult with a team of physicians if they experienced any difficulties in the bedroom.

Acupuncture can be used to treat premature ejaculation, low sperm count, diminished sperm motility, erectile dysfunction, male climacteric (menopause) and increase libido.

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## Time to Earn Your CEU's?

Here are just a few of the great seminars and conferences coming up:

10-23-10	<a href="#"><u>Sports Medicine Acupuncture Certification</u></a>	San Diego, CA
10-23-10	<a href="#"><u>Anatomy and Cadaver Lab 1: The Spine</u></a>	San Diego, CA
10-23-10	<a href="#"><u>Neoclassical Pulse Diagnosis</u></a>	Austin, TX
10-25-10	<a href="#"><u>Huatuojiayi Points</u></a>	San Diego, CA
10-30-10	<a href="#"><u>Basic Battlefield Acupuncture</u></a>	Gaithersburg, MD
11-04-10	<a href="#"><u>Pacific Symposium 2010</u></a>	San Diego, CA
11-07-10	<a href="#"><u>Brain Health &amp; Avoiding Dementia</u></a>	Alameda, CA
01-08-11	<a href="#"><u>OM Business Bootcamp</u></a>	Belize.

## **Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day October 24th!**

Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day is part of an effort to increase public awareness of the progress, promise, and benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine. Spearheaded by the (NCCAOM) in 2002 it is supported through a unique international partnership of organizations in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day provides an excellent opportunity for you and your organization to get more involved in your community, promote your practice and the benefits of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

For more information and for ideas on how to get involved visit the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Day website at <http://www.aomday.org/>.