

# Strabismus after Cerebral Spastic Paralysis Sequelae of Bacterial Meningitis Treated with Acupuncture

Huang Wei Ling

*Infectious Diseases, General Practice, Nutrition, Acupuncture and Pain Management Specialist, Medical Acupuncture and Pain Management Clinic, Franca, São Paulo, Brazil*

## ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Strabismus means misaligned eyes. Often strabismus eyes are referred to as “squinting eyes,” “crossed eyes,” and “wall eyes.” Usually, both eyes fixate equally while focusing on an object with the head held in the primary position. In strabismus or squint, one or both eyes deviate inward or outward and appear to be in non-alignment toward the direction of the focused object. For traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), the pathogenesis is attributed to congenital insufficiency or Spleen-Stomach deficiency leading to reduced production of *Qi* and Blood that fail to transport essence to the eyes. **Purpose:** To demonstrate that strabismus can be treated using acupuncture looking the patient holistically and treating the energy imbalances and not just the symptoms. **Methods:** One case report a 2-year-old child diagnosed with spastic cerebral palsy after bacterial meningitis’s treatment and that directly affects the part of motor coordination, due to this the muscles are more rigid, and the child has strabismus. After looking for ophthalmology, the use of a tampon was indicated, but the child was very irritated and had no improvement. The parents looked for another way of treatment of the patient’s spasticity and started the treatment with acupuncture. Her Chinese medicine’s diagnosis was Kidney *Yin* Deficiency. **Results:** After treatment in TCM, besides improving the patient’s motor coordination, strabismus also had great results despite not being the initial focus of treatment. **Conclusion:** The conclusion of this study is that strabismus had an energy imbalance as the cause and the treatment with acupuncture is very effective to improve and treat the root of the problem that is the energy imbalances.

**Key words:** Strabismus, Energy, Diet, Acupuncture, Traditional Chinese medicine, Hippocrates

## INTRODUCTION

Strabismus occurs when the eyes are not aligned to look at the same thing, one eye will be fixed where the person wants and the other eye is looking at something else, so each eye is sending a different image to the brain that normally shows the image of the normal eye perfectly and the image of the deviated eye will be blurred, but it may also be that the brain disregards the image of the deviated eye, and the person has only the vision of an object.<sup>[1]</sup>

Strabismus occurs mainly in children and may be due to genetic factors, as a result of trauma, when they have hyperopia, or because of some disease that can affect the nervous system.<sup>[1]</sup>

When a person who has strabismus covers the fixed eye, the deviated eye usually moves to the correct position so that the person can see an unfocused image of what they want to see; however, it may be that in this eye, the vision is slightly reduced, even with the fixed eye covered, what is called the “lazy eye.” That is why the most common treatment for strabismus is with the use of plugs in the fixed eye so that the deviated or lazy eye can be forced and stimulated to focus on the right spot.<sup>[1]</sup>

This article was written following Hippocrates thoughts that said: “Foolish the doctor who despises the knowledge acquired by the ancients.” Hence, in this article, the author will show how treat strabismus rebalancing the internal energy of *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi*, and Blood according to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) reasoning.<sup>[2]</sup>

### Address for correspondence:

Huang Wei Ling, MD, Rua Homero Pacheco Alves, 1929, Franca, São Paulo, 14400-010, Brazil.

© 2021 Huang. This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license.

## Purpose

The purpose of this study is to demonstrate that the use of TCM tools, such as Chinese dietary counseling and acupuncture associated with apex ear bloodletting, could be effective in the treatment of strabismus after cerebral spastic paralysis sequelae of bacterial meningitis, once these tools treat the patients holistically, the energy imbalances and not just the symptoms.

## METHODS

To write this article, the author did an extensive search in articles related to strabismus in Western and in TCM indexed in PubMed. Furthermore, the author is describing in one case report of a 2-year-old girl patient that had strabismus post cerebral spastic sequelae of bacterial meningitis.

## CASE REPORT

Patient H.R, 5-year-old girl, she had bacterial meningitis after birth and this infection caused several sequelae such as neurological sequelae, cerebral palsy, and spasticity in the limbs and she did not walk. Since she became the treatment with the author, she already used the tampon in her eye to try to correct the strabismus, orientated by her ophthalmologist.

She came to the author's clinic to treat the sequelae of the infection through acupuncture. Her diagnosis in TCM was Kidney *Yin* deficiency (due to feel more hotness in the body). The author started the treatment using Chinese dietary recommendations, orientating to do not consume dairy products, raw food, cold water, and sweets. It was also recommended to avoid coffee, soda, and matte tea besides the avoidance of fried foods, melted cheese, eggs, chocolate, coconut, and alcoholic beverages.

She also submitted to systemic and auricular acupuncture with apex ear bloodletting sessions twice a week. The acupuncture sessions were done using needles for systemic acupuncture, but as the patient was a child, the author only introduces the needle in the acupuncture point and takes out, with the intention to stimulate the flow of the energy inside the child's body. The auricular acupuncture sessions were done using mustard seeds applied to the ear by small adhesive tapes. The author orientates the parents to press each auricular acupuncture point three times a day for about 1 min each time.

Regarding the period before delivery, the patient had some problems when in the intrauterine period. Before the mother knew she was pregnant, she had a lot of pain in her belly, and she had an appendectomy, but the pain had not yet improved. The patient was born 6 months premature and as soon as she was born, following her mother, she was hospitalized for about 15 days to treat the infection in the central nervous system.

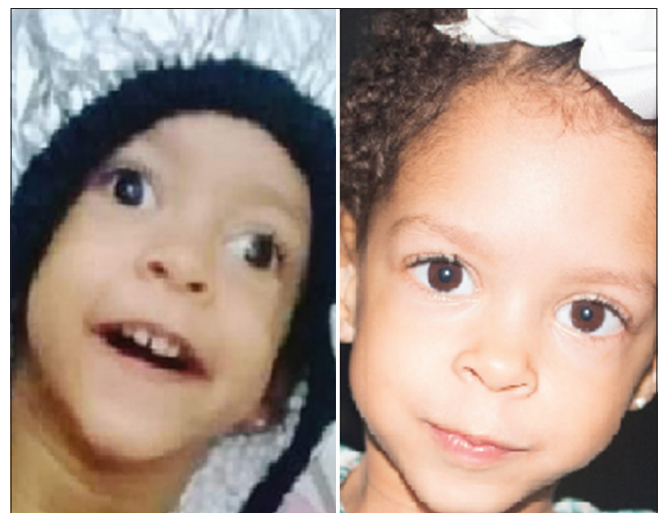
## CASE REPORT RESULTS

After treatment using TCM tools (Chinese dietary counseling, auricular, and systemic acupuncture) to treat her spasticity and difficult in walk, the parents observed that the strabismus was much better too, although it was not the aim of the treatment made by the author. The patient did not need to use the tampon anymore and told the ophthalmologist doctor that they will not use anymore because the treatment with acupuncture and the effect in the strabismus was much better than the use of tampons in the normal eye, as you can see in Figure 1.

According to the mother's words, it was acupuncture that helped the patient to firm her body to walk, to be able to take steps and accelerate the improvement process, because she was doing physical therapy and all the necessary care, but when she started acupuncture, the patient's improvement process was very accelerated in all aspects at the same time, in relation to the neurological, psychological, and also in the ophthalmological aspect, which was not the initial focus of the doctor, but also improved at the same time.

The explanation of how this kind of treatment improved all the patient's symptoms at the same time such as the emotional aspects, the patient became more calm, less irritate, and less fear and was not so spastic (said by the physiotherapist that was treating her in the APAE – that is the exceptional parents and friend's association with the intention to promote the diagnosis, prevention and inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities, and producing and disseminating knowledge.)

The author did the radiesthesia procedure on her that revealed that all her chakras' energy centers were normal, rated in eight. This result was not what was expected by the author,



**Figure 1:** Photo in the left showing the strabismus before the treatment and the photo in the right, showing the strabismus after the Chinese tools treatment





has their own energy imbalances. TCM search for the root of the appearance of each symptom and disease; that's why when the physician treats the root of one disease, it will treat all diseases, because there is only one root for all the branches (medical specialties) and the manifestation of the symptoms and diseases is only the reflexes of these imbalances between the energies. The explanations about energy are well made by Capra F. (2010) in the book *The Tao of Physics*.<sup>[3-14]</sup>

According to TCM, everything in the universe is composed by *Yin* and *Yang* energies and in the human being, to them flow adequately inside the meridians, two other energies need to act together that is *Qi* and Blood that you can see in Figure 3. These four energies must be in balance to the person have health and when the patient is already ill, the focus is to rebalance them. If these energy imbalances or deficiencies are not properly treated, this imbalance could end up generating an internal heat that can aggravate or generate new diseases.<sup>[3-13]</sup>

The second theory that basis TCM is the Five Elements theory [Figure 4]. According to this theory, every organ that composes our human body has a representation in each five elements and has an external sensorial organ that they command. For example, the Wood element is represented by the Liver and it is responsible for the functioning of the eye and vision process. The Fire element is represented by Heart and it is responsible for communication which the tongue is the organ that it commands. The Earth element is represented by the Spleen, which is responsible for the sense of taste. The Metal element is represented by the Lung and it is responsible for the smell. Finally, the Water element is represented by the Kidney and it is responsible for the hearing process and the organ they command it is the ears.<sup>[3-13]</sup>

The theory of the five elements was also created from the observation of nature, also linking the *Yin* and *Yang* theory. In this theory, we have the five elements, Fire, Earth, Metal, Water and Wood and each element has a massive organ (*Yin* organ), a hollow organ (*Yang* organ), a sensory organ, a muscle tissue, a flavor, an emotion, color, climate, and season where they are responsible, command, or develop, as detailed in Table 1. In this theory, we have two cycles where one organ will generate energy for the next or control the other organ, so in TCM the entire human organism is interconnected and working together, different by the Western medicine's point of view where each organ works independently and separately.<sup>[3-13]</sup>

To the physician to understand why the treatment based on the root (energy imbalances on the root level of the tree demonstrated in Figure 2) improved the symptom of strabismus of the patient reported in this article, the author will explain in the following paragraphs.<sup>[3-13]</sup>

According to TCM, the *Qi* of all internal organs reaches the eyes and is responsible for the health state of the person, so to



Figure 3: Relationship between *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi*, and Blood

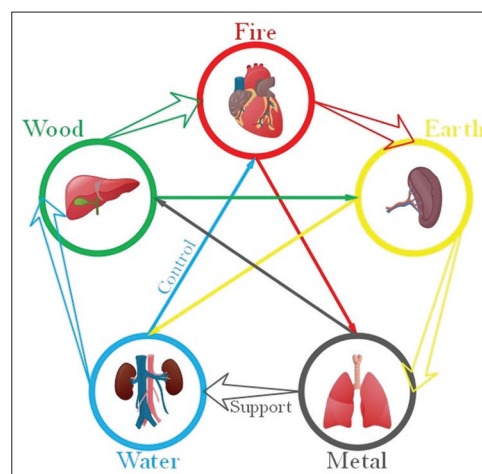


Figure 4: Five Elements theory

treat any disease related to the eyes, it is important to treat all five massive organs (Liver, Heart, Spleen, Lung and Kidney) so that their energies can circulate and nourish the eyes and all the parts that corresponds to the eye normally. In this case specific, the pathogenesis is attributed to congenital insufficiency or Spleen-Stomach deficiency, leading to reduced production of *Qi* and Blood that fail to transport essence to the eyes.<sup>[15]</sup>

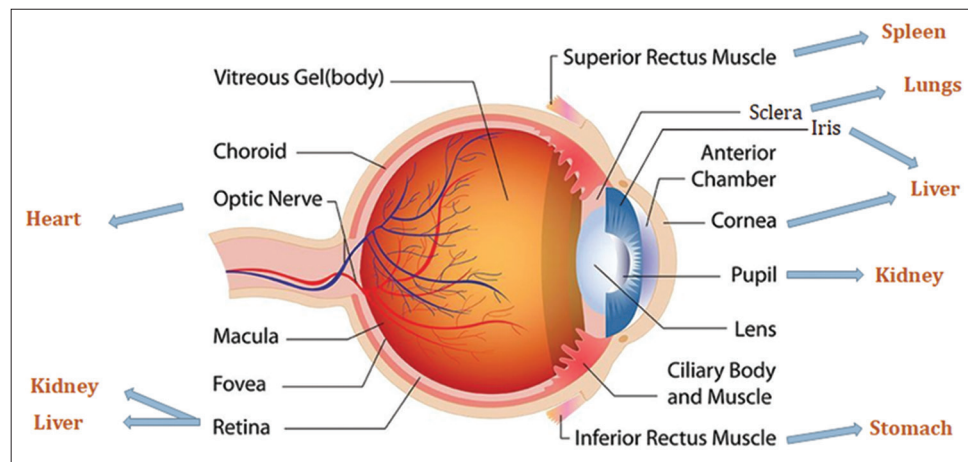
The main meridian that brings energy to the eyes is the Liver, as it "opens up to the eyes," being generally the cause of the main eye diseases. However, all internal organs affect the eye, as their meridians are responsible for nourishing the eyes and if they are not in balance, they can cause some damage to the vision.<sup>[15]</sup>

There is a theory about the use of five wheels in the ophthalmology diagnosis in the book *Ophthalmology in Chinese Medicine*. According to this theory, the Kidneys take care of the eye and the pupil. The Lungs are responsible for the sclera, the Heart nourishes the veins and arteries, the Stomach is responsible for the lower eyelid while the upper eyelid is the responsibility of the Spleen, the Liver takes care of the corneas and irises, and the retina is nourished by the Kidney and Liver, as you can see in Figure 5.<sup>[15]</sup>

Auricular acupuncture is an important component of Chinese medicine that uses the ears for diagnosis and therapy.<sup>[16]</sup>

**Table 1:** Five elements and their correspondences according to the season, color, climate, tissues, taste, and orifice

Elements	Wood	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water
Orientation	East	South	Middle	West	North
Season	Spring	Summer	Late Summer	Autumn	Winter
Climate	Wind	Summer Heat	Dampness	Dryness	Cold
Cultivation	Germinate	Grow	Transform	Reap	Store
Yin Organ	Liver	Heart	Spleen	Lung	Kidney
Yang Organ	Gall Bladder	Small Intestine	Stomach	Large Intestine	Bladder
Orifice	Eye	Tongue	Mouth	Nose	Ear
Tissues	Tendons	Vessels	Muscles	Skin and Hair	Bones
Emotions	Anger	Joy	Pensiveness	Grief	Fear
Color	Blue/Green	Red	Yellow	White	Black
Taste	Sour	Bitter	Sweet	Pungent	Salty
Voice	Shout	Laugh	Sing	Cry	Groan

**Figure 5:** Theory of the Five Wheels in traditional Chinese medicine

In this therapy, the physician can use the ears to treat a diverse of diseases because in the ears, there are representation of all the organs that composes the human body. In the article written by the author entitled *How Do You Treat Back Pain in Your Practice? Part 2*, published by Medical Acupuncture on February 2018, the author is explaining the function of each point to balance the *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi*, and Blood and using this reasoning, the author was able to achieve this result in the treatment of this patient reported in this article, because the strabismus was not the aim of the treatment of the author, but the improvement in the motor coordination and others but as the author explained in the beginning of the discussion section, when the physician treats the root of the problem, all the patient symptoms would improve at the same time, even the doctor does not know that the patient have such symptom, as she demonstrated and presented this theme at the Acupuncture Research Conference that was held in Boston, at Harvard University Medical School, in 2015.<sup>[7]</sup>

The auricular acupuncture points used in her treatment were described in Figure 6. Usually, the doctor that practices acupuncture tends to treat the patient's symptoms, in the same reasoning used by Western Medicine. Therefore, not all the acupuncture treatments will have the same result. It will depend if the physician is treating only the symptoms (eyes disease) or the root problem (energy imbalances between *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi*, and Blood).<sup>[3-13]</sup>

In the article written by the author entitled *Can the Use of Earrings Cause Eye Pain?* published on the Journal of Clinical Review and Case Reports on May 2018, the author is demonstrating in this article, the influence on the use of earrings in the ear, generating eye pain symptoms. In this article, she is presenting two cases reports that were complaining eye pain. They both were using earring in the eye point of the ear. When they were instructed to take out both earrings, the eye pain disappeared completely. In this article, the author wants to show that all the organs are interconnected and not separately.<sup>[17]</sup>

However, one thing that the author did not expect in this child, was that she had not a deficiency in the energy of the chakras, and all of them were in the normal level, rated in eight, in the first appointment of the patient, in 2017, when she was 2 years old. This patient had all the chakras with normal energy in the first appointment; therefore, the author still could not understand what could have happened at the time of the infection of this patient. Since the infections, generated by the invasion of external pathogenic factor occurs usually when the patient's *Zheng-Qi* is weakened in energy. *Zheng Qi* is characterized by the energy of the Kidney or second chakra, which can come from the Kidney energy constitution of the parents' or come through the diet after birth. As the patient had in Kidney *Yin* deficiency in Chinese medicine's diagnosis, the author is trying to comprehend the energy level in the chakra. Even if the patient could have energy disharmony in the energy level, this cannot impair the chakras' energy centers. However, more studies showing alterations in the energy level but normal chakras' energy centers need to be

done to study this condition of lack of energy influencing the results on the chakras' energy centers.<sup>[18]</sup>

Acupuncture is considered a medical specialty by the Federal Medical Council since 1995 in Brazil.<sup>[19]</sup>

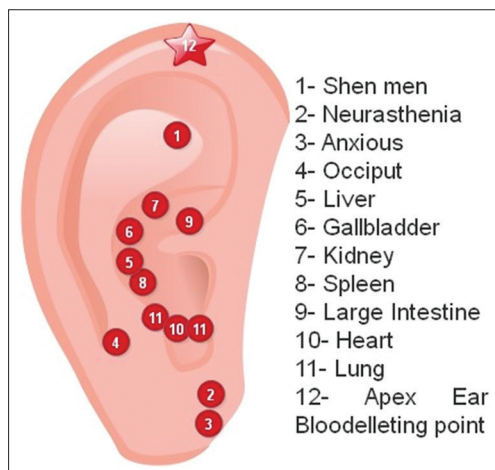
That is why it is increasingly necessary to integrate the different types of knowledge and practices, mainly in the medical field, as well as in the theory of *Yin* and *Yang*, where one energy cannot exist without the other, Western and TCMs must also complement each other so that patients can be treated in a more humane and effective way, as shown in Figure 7.<sup>[3-13]</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that strabismus had an energy imbalance as the cause and the treatment with acupuncture is very effective to improve and treat the root of the problem that is the energy imbalances of *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi*, and Blood. The association of Western medicine and TCM in the treatment of this kind of problem is important to the improvement of the symptoms, reflecting a better quality of life and less stress to the entire family.

## REFERENCES

1. Helveston EM. Understanding, detecting, and managing strabismus. *Community Eye Health* 2010;23:12-4.
2. Yapijakis C. Hippocrates of Kos, the father of clinical medicine, and Asclepiades of Bithynia, the father of molecular medicine. *Review. In Vivo* 2009;23:507-14.
3. Huang WL. Why do patients still catch hospital infections despite the practice of infection prevention and control programs? *Acta Sci Microbiol* 2018;1:34-43.
4. Huang WL. The treatment of asthma based on traditional Chinese medicine and homeopathy. *J Pediatr Infants* 2018;1:24-40.
5. Huang WL. Can recurrent furunculosis be treated without the use of antibiotics? *Acta Sci Microbiol* 2018;1:4-12.
6. Huang WL. Can hospital osteomyelitis be treated without the use of antibiotics? *Microbiol Infect Dis* 2018;2:1-6.
7. Huang WL. How do you treat back pain in your practice? Part 2. *Med Acupunct* 2018;30:46-53.
8. Huang WL. Treatment for smoking addiction without the use of any medication. *J Pulm Med Respir Ther* 2019;2:18-27.
9. Huang WL. Why are diabetic patients still having hyperglycemia despite diet regulation, antiglycemic medication and insulin? *Int J Diabetes Metab Disord* 2019;4:1-14.
10. Huang WL. Chakras energy deficiency as the cause of chronic conjunctival hyperemia. *Clin Res Ophthalmol* 2019;2:1-6.
11. Huang WL. Energy alterations as the underlying cause of primary hypertension. *ARC J Nephrol* 2019;4:33-44.
12. Huang WL. Energy alterations and chakras energy deficiencies in the pathophysiology of Bell's palsy. *J Neurol Exp Neural Sci* 2020;3:140.
13. Huang WL. The importance of correcting energy imbalances



**Figure 6:** Auricular acupuncture points used in the treatment of the patient



**Figure 7:** Metaphor of the *Yin* and *Yang* associating Western with traditional Chinese medicine

- and chakras energy deficiencies in the treatment of patients with glaucoma. *Clin Res Ophthalmol* 2019;2:1-9.
14. Capra F. *The Tao of Physics: An Exploration of the Parallels between Modern Physics and Eastern Mysticism*; 2010.
15. Qi-Ping W, Rosenfarb A. *Ophthalmology in Chinese Medicine*, Liang Li-Na; 1709.
16. Huang L. *Auricular Medicine Hardcover*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. United States: Auricular medicine Center; 2006.
17. Huang WL. Can the use of earrings cause eye pain? *J Clin Rev Case Rep* 2018;3:1-3.
18. Dashtdar M, Dashtdar MR, Dashtdar B, Kardi K, Shirazi MK. The concept of wind in traditional Chinese medicine. *J Pharmacopuncture* 2016;19:293-302.
19. CREMEPE, Homeopatia E Acupuntura Reconhecidas E Procuradas; 2006. Available from: <http://www.cremepe.org.br/2006/11/26/homeopatia-e-acupuntura-reconhecidas-e-procuradas>. [Last accessed on 2021 Mar 13].

**How to cite this article:** Huang WL. Strabismus after Cerebral Spastic Paralysis Sequelae of Bacterial Meningitis Treated with Acupuncture. *Clin Res Ophthalmol* 2021;4(1):1-7.