

Is it Possible to Treat Nosocomial Cellulitis Post Placement of Hemodialysis Catheter without the Use of Antibiotics?

Huang WL*

Medical Acupuncture and Pain Management Clinic, Franca, São Paulo, Brazil

*Corresponding author: Huang Wei Ling, Rua Homero Pacheco Alves, 1929, Franca, São Paulo, 14400-010, Brazil, Tel: +55 16 3721-2437; Email: weilingmg@gmail.com

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Abstract

Nosocomial cellulitis is usually treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics, because they are normally caused by multi-resistant bacteria. Patients with chronic renal insufficiency usually have Blood deficiency and Heat retention according to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM).

Purpose: To demonstrate that nosocomial cellulitis after placement of hemodialysis catheter can be treated without the use of any antibiotics.

Methods: One case report, 58-year-old female patient, submitted to hemodialysis for five years (kidney insufficiency). In 2019, her doctor indicated the removal of the hemodialysis catheter (supposed infection), and replaced it with a temporary catheter (superior right arm). On the same day, the patient felt pain, swelling, hyperemia (15x20cm) and localized heat on the skin surrounding the catheter, and the doctor removed it. The patient was already receiving acupuncture treatment and showed the lesion to the acupuncture doctor. She received Chinese dietary counseling (avoid fried foods, eggs, honey, chocolate, coconut, alcoholic beverages, cold water and dairy products), more auricular acupuncture sessions and apex ear bloodletting. The patient also received the homeopathy medication (Sulphur 6CH, five globules three times a day).

Results: In one week, the lesion normalized, with disappearance of hyperemia, pain, swelling and heat on the skin where the catheter was.

Conclusions: It is possible to treat nosocomial-cellulitis post placement of hemodialysis catheter without the use of antibiotics, according to this case report. To achieve this result, it is important to correct the energy imbalances presented by each patient, taking out Heat retention and correcting the diet according to the energy point of view.

Keywords: Hemodialysis Catheter; Infection; Energy; Traditional Chinese Medicine; Hippocrates; Homeopathy

Abbreviations: TCM: Traditional Chinese Medicine; CRBSIs: Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections; IQWiG: Institute For Quality and Efficiency in Health Care.

Introduction

Hemodialysis is a procedure through which a machine cleans and filters the blood. It is part of the work that the sick kidney cannot do. The procedure frees the body of residues harmful to health, such as excess of salt and liquids. It also controls blood pressure and helps the body maintain a balance of

substances such as sodium, potassium, urea and creatinine. In hemodialysis, the machine receives the patient's blood through a vascular access such as the catheter (tube) and then is driven by a pump to the dialysis filter (dialyzer). In the dialyzer, the blood is exposed to the dialysis solution (dialysate) through a semipermeable membrane that removes excess liquid and toxins and returns the clean blood to the patient through the vascular access. The hemodialysis catheter is a tube placed in a vein in the neck, chest or groin, with local anesthesia. The catheter is a generally temporary option for patients who do not have a fistula and need dialysis.

The main problems related to the use of the catheter are obstruction and infection, which often requires the removal of the catheter and the implantation of a new catheter to continue the hemodialysis sessions. Infections are common complications among patients on chronic hemodialysis [1-5].

According to Western medicine literature, hemodialysis patients with a catheter have a 2- to 3-fold increased risk of hospitalization for infection and death compared with patients with an arteriovenous fistula or graft. Catheter-related bloodstream infections (CRBSIs), exit-site infections, and tunnel infections are common complications related to hemodialysis central venous catheter use. The most common causative pathogens are gram-positive bacteria, with *Staphylococcus aureus* and coagulase-negative staphylococci accounting for 40% to 80% of CRBSIs. Gram-negative organisms cause 20% to 40% CRBSIs, whereas polymicrobial infections (10%-20%) and fungal infections (<5%) are less common. Metastatic infectious complications of CRBSIs include endocarditis, osteomyelitis, spinal epidural abscess, septic arthritis, brain abscess, and septic pulmonary emboli. In Western medicine, nosocomial cellulitis is usually treated with broad-spectrum antibiotics, because they are normally caused by multi-resistant bacteria. In traditional Chinese medicine, patients with chronic renal insufficiency usually have Blood deficiency and Heat retention [6,7].

Purpose

To demonstrate that nosocomial cellulitis after placement of hemodialysis catheter can be treated without the use of any antibiotics.

Methods

The author used to construct this article searching for publications about cellulites nosocomial infections post hemodialysis catheter placement thought PubMed and in traditional Chinese medicine literature about the same subject. To illustrate this article, she will show one case report of a patient with renal insufficiency, in treatment with hemodialysis that was suspected to have a catheter infection and need to change the catheter and had a cellulites formation around this new catheter.

Case Report

MM, 58-year-old female patient, submitted to hemodialysis for five years due to kidney insufficiency. In 2019, her doctor indicated the removal of the hemodialysis catheter because he was suspecting of infection, and replaced it with a temporary catheter in the superior right arm. On the same day, the patient begins to felt pain, swelling, hyperemia being the infection size about 15x20cm and localized heat on the

skin surrounding the catheter. Due to this infection, the doctor removed this new catheter. The patient was diagnosed with anemia, through laboratorial exam (Hemoglobin 9.2 mg/dl). The patient was already receiving acupuncture treatment and showed the lesion to the acupuncture doctor. She received more auricular acupuncture sessions and apex ear bloodletting. The patient also received the medication called Sulphur 6CH five globules three times a day (homeopathy medication).

She received Chinese dietary counselling and was advised to avoid fried foods, eggs, honey, chocolate, coconut, alcoholic beverages, cold water and dairy products. She was also submitted to the radiesthesia procedure, which showed that she had no energy in six of her seven chakras, which all appeared in the minimum level (1 out of 8), with the exception of the seventh that was normal (rated in eight). She began to intake the medications to replenish the chakras' energies centers using highly diluted medications. These medications are homeopathies but used in another theory created by the author entitled *Constitutional Homeopathy of the Five Elements Based on Traditional Chinese Medicine*. The treatment using highly diluted medications were done in this sequence: Sulphur 30CHXX-20 (single dose), Calcarea carbonica 30CHXX-20 (single dose), Silicea 30CHXX-20 (single dose), Natrum muriaticum 30CHXX-20 (single dose), Phosphorus 30CHXX-20 (single dose). The homeopathies were prescribed to be taken in a single dose with a hiatus of three days between the medications, necessarily on the sequence described. Two months later, a new sequence of treatment was started, with the same medications taken on the same order, but now with 200CHXX20 instead of 30CHXX-20. Two months later, a new sequence of treatment was started, with the same medications taken on the same order, but now with 1,000CHXX-20 instead of 200CHXX-20. Two months later, a new sequence of treatment was started, as the others, with the same medications taken on the same order, now with 10,000CHXX-20 instead of 1,000CHXX-20. Two months later, a new sequence of treatment was started, as the others, with the same medications taken on the same order, now with 50,000CHXX-20 instead of 10,000CHXX-20. It was also prescribed crystal-based medications, both kinds of medications to replenish the energy of the chakras for a period of one year or more. The radiesthesia measurements were done after one year to evaluate the improvement of the treatment in relation to the chakras' energies centers and to evaluate the necessity or not to maintain the medications.

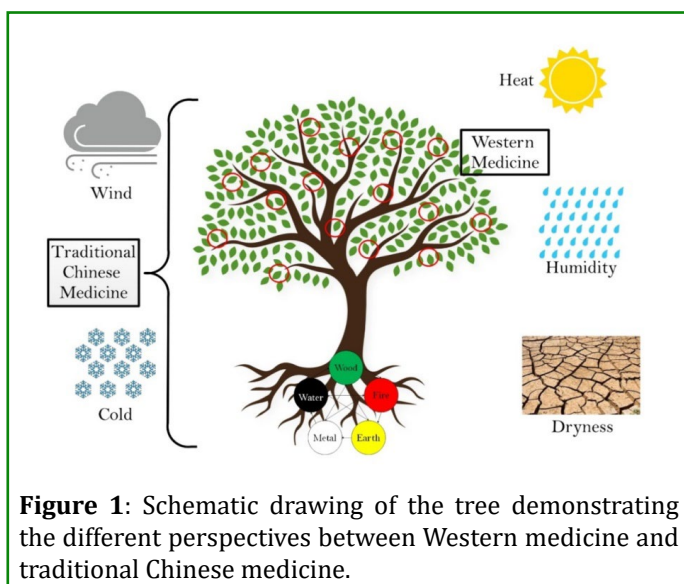
Results

In one week, the lesion normalized, with disappearance of hyperemia, pain, swelling and heat on the skin where the catheter was, without the necessity of using any antibiotics to treat the infection.

Discussion

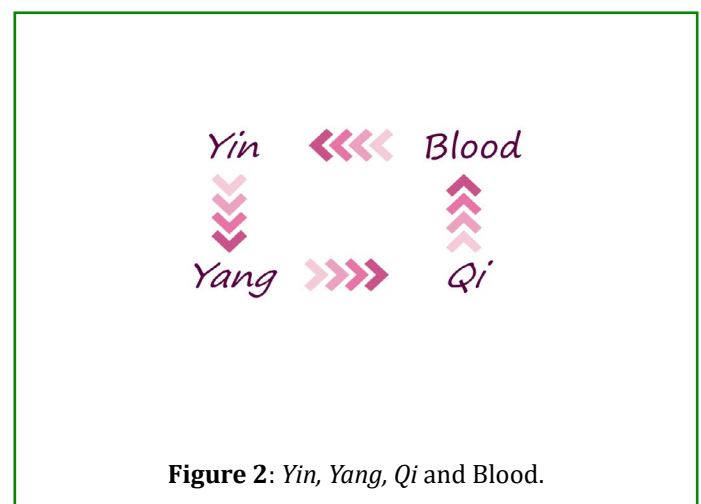
Before discuss how the author did her reasoning to treat this patient, she wants to explain how her reasoning began in 2006. The author attended in her clinic an afro-descendent patient who reported to have pain in the legs for about 6 months without any improvement using anti-inflammatory medications. This patient was a 70-year-old, and was diagnosed with Kidney-*Yang* deficiency, according to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). He received treatment with Chinese dietary counseling, acupuncture and auricular acupuncture associated with apex ear bloodletting. With the treatment done, the pain in the legs diminished and the patient was submitted to an interview 30 days after the treatment. In this interview, the patient revealed his eye pressure had also lowered, as his ophthalmologist confirmed. During the treatment, he had not reported to be treating glaucoma in the last 40 years with no improvement of his condition. For the first time of his time of life his intra-ocular pressure went from 40 mmHg to 17 mmHg. This unusual case became the cornerstone of the author's studies in the field, trying to comprehend how the treatment focused on the root of the problem could treat different diseases and symptoms simultaneously and using the same methods.

As these concepts may be hard to conceptualize for a Western medicine physician, the author used the metaphor of the tree to facilitate the comprehension. On the Figure 1, you can see the tree-like figure. The tree has a trunk with several branches. Each branch represents one medical specialty and each leaf coming out of each branch represents the symptoms and diseases of each specialty. The leaves and the branches are the visible part and the object of study and practice in the Western medical profession because of the curriculum offered in the medical schools around the world [7-9].



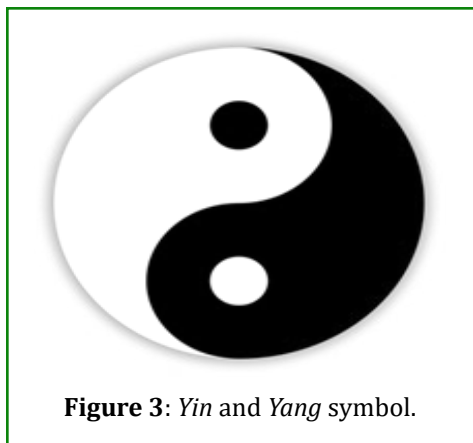
All the symptoms are on the leaf-level of the metaphor of the tree. In Western medicine, each of these symptoms is treated by different medical specialties, represented by branches on the tree metaphor. What the author will be emphasized in this article, aims to explain what is below the earth, under the line that separates what is below the earth and what is under the earth that is usually not visible by the naked eyes. In this level, are the root of the tree and it is in this part that the author will treat, because all the disease are formed by energies imbalances though emotions, diet, and influences by the external pathogenic factors (Cold, Wind, Heat, Humidity, Dryness), that can influence the balance of the internal energy that is located in the root of the tree, represented by the *Yin* and *Yang* energies and Five Elements theory. There is a flow of energy going from the root to the leaves, it represents the nutritional center of the body, and the energy will flow through the energy meridians, taking energy from the root to the leaves and from the leaves to the root. All the systems of the body in TCM are interconnected, as well as all the internal organs. When the root is imbalanced or damage, symptoms will appear on the leaves. Everything in the world is formed by energy, including the human body. What we can see with the naked eye corresponds to systems and organs and it is materialized energy, and what is on the root of the tree is not materialized energy, and corresponds to *Yin* and *Yang* theory and Five Elements theory [7-10].

In this article, the author will focus in the root level and on the external pathogenic factors, not visible by the naked eye. In TCM reasoning, when knowing the mechanisms, and the way the disease occurs considering the external pathogenic factors and the root, it is possible to treat any disease using the same method, maintaining the balance of *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi* and Blood, as you can see in the Figure 2 [7-10].

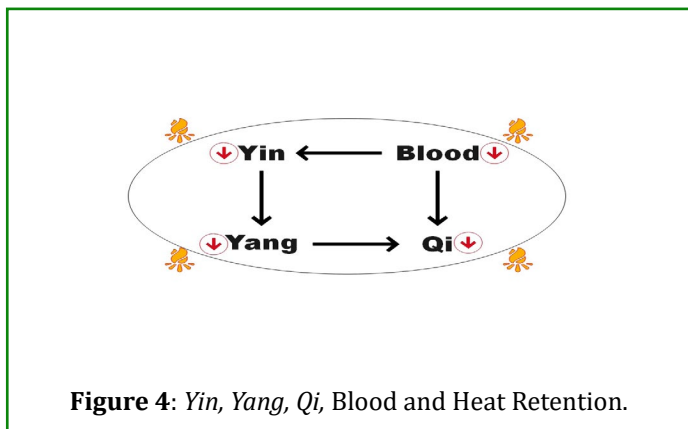


The concept of health and well-being in TCM is mainly associated with the balance of *Yin* and *Yang*. *Yin* and *Yang*

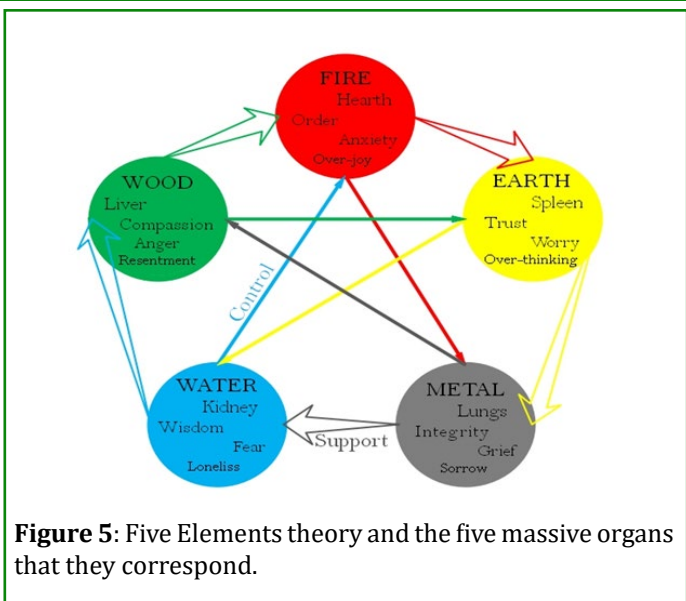
(Figure 3) are two opposite and complementary forces that exist in our world, in everything, including the human body. A possible example is day and night, men and women, good and bad [8-11].



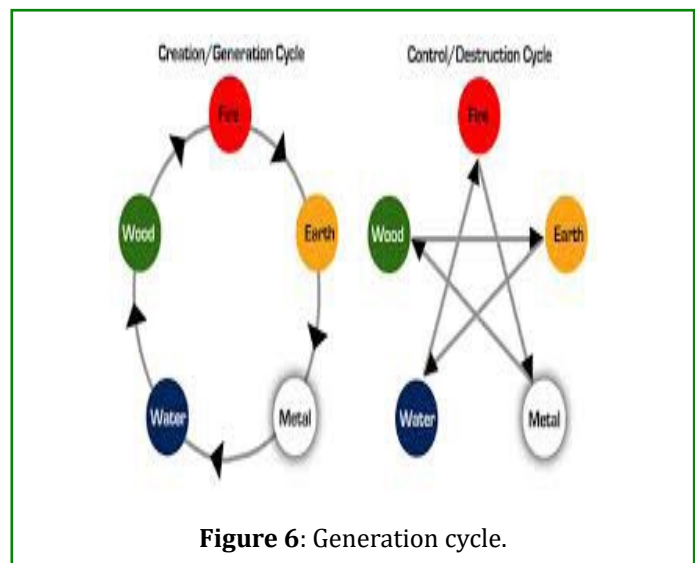
Traditional Chinese medicine uses the balance of these two energies as the main cornerstone for the treatment of all sorts of symptoms and diseases. The balance of Yin and Yang determines health in TCM. For Yin and Yang energy to flow, two other energies have to work in harmony with it: Qi and Blood. To achieve health, the main aim is to balance these four energies Yin, Yang, Qi and Blood, as demonstrated in the Figure 2 [8-11]. The lack of energy of one of these energies or a combination of them can lead to the formation of internal Heat inside the body, as you can see in the Figure 3 [8-11].



Another theory on the root of the tree is the Five Elements theory (Figure 5), which explains the functioning of nature and the interconnection between the massive organs inside the body. In this theory, all organs are interconnected, and everything that happens with an organ on the energy level will influence the other organs and the whole system [10].



On the theory of the Five Elements, the elements are Fire, Earth, Metal, Water and Wood and are represented by the five massive organs, which are Heart, Spleen, Lungs, Kidney and Liver, respectively, as you can see on Figure 5 [10]. Each element provides the energy for the formation and maintains of the next element. This process is entitled generation cycle, as shown in the Figure 6 [10].



In the Five elements theory, when talking about one element, the author will know the orientation, the season, the climate, the Yin organ, the Yang organ, the tissue, the color, the taste, the emotion and the orifice associated with it. In the Table 1, the author is demonstrating the resonance of the Five Elements in the body [10].

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

Table 1: Resonance of the Five Elements.

This image, in the Figure 7, represents the chakras' energies centers, and according to the study entitled *The Geometry of Emotions: Using Chakra Acupuncture and 5-Phase Theory to Describe Personality Archetypes for Clinical Use* written by Christopher R Chase, he associates the Five Elements theory with the Chakras' energies centers. To publish this article and using this association explained by Christopher, the author is measuring the energy of the internal organs of the Five Elements using radiesthesia procedure [10-12].

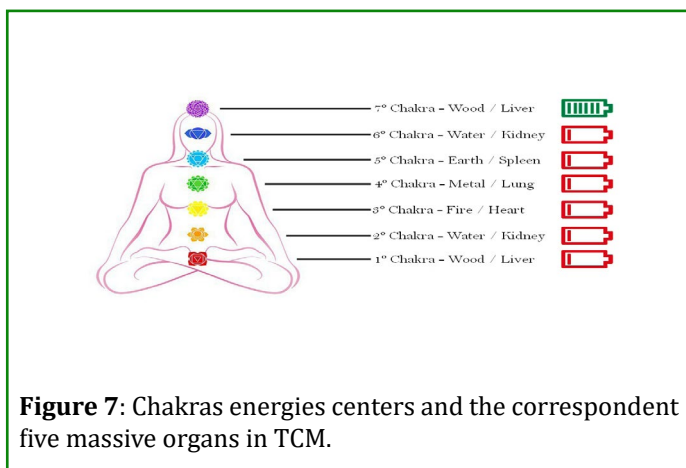


Figure 7: Chakras energies centers and the correspondent five massive organs in TCM.

As there are seven chakras and five elements, the first and seventh correspond to Wood (Liver), the second and sixth correspond to Water (Kidney), the third to Fire (Heart), the fourth to Metal (Lung) and the fifth to Earth (Spleen) [10]. Each chakra is responsible for several functions, working as the reserve of energy of each organ that it is responsible for. Therefore, the level of energy on the root level is associated with the level of energy on the chakras. In this article, the

radiesthesia was used to measure the level of the chakras' energies of the analyzed patient. The procedure of radiesthesia is done using a crystal pendulum. This pendulum is placed in front of each person's chakra. The pendulum may stay still, or move clockwise or counter-clockwise these movements are classified in a scale of 1 to 8, being one the minimum level of energy and 8 the normal level. If the pendulum does not move, the patient has no energy on the evaluated chakra. If it moves clockwise, it will be classified from 1 to 8 according to the intensity of the movement. When the movement is counter-clockwise may be external interference, and it has to be studied individually [8-13].

According to traditional Chinese medicine, signs of hyperemia on the skin may be the result of the formation of internal Heat, caused by a condition of lack of internal energy, or by an excess of energy. Knowing that patients that perform hemodialysis already have an energy deficiency, mainly Blood deficiency, confirmed by the patient in this case report, after the first evaluation by the Chinese physician and by laboratory exams showed that her hemoglobin level was 9.2mg/dl [13,14]. In traditional Chinese medicine, the patient that have deficiency on the energy, can have clinical manifestation, but nothing appears on the laboratorial exams. On the first three phases of the progression from health to disease (Table 2), these imbalances are only on the energy level. That does not mean that the patient is not sick. She had symptoms, but the exams appear normal, as the alterations are on the energy level. When there is alteration on the laboratorial exams, this means that the energy alterations are present on the patient for several years. On the patient studied, despite the altered exams, she also had a hemoglobin alteration, detectable through exams, indicating that she has the energy alterations (Blood deficiency) for more than five years [8-14].

Progression of health to disease				
Phase	Organ	Exams	Energy Reserve	Symptom
1	Slowing down of organ functions	Normal	Normal	Without critical symptoms
2	Slowing down of organ functions	Normal	Consumption of internal energy reserves	With Symptoms in other organ
3	Slowing down of organ functions	Normal	Consumption of external energy reserves	With symptoms in same organ
4	Reversible Cellular Lesion	Little Alteration	Consumption of blood reserves	Curable Disease
5	Irreversible Cellular Lesion	Excessive Alteration	Metabolic exhaustion	Incurable Disease

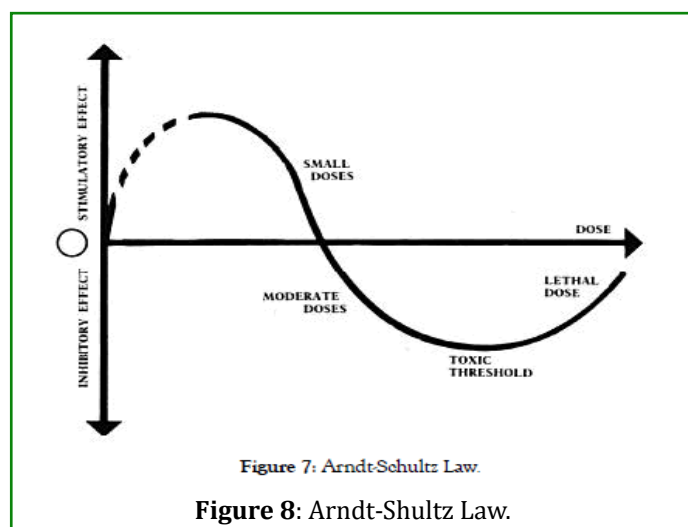
Table 2: Progression from health to disease.

Blood deficiency leads to the formation of internal Heat, clinically associated with hyperemia, among other symptoms. The treatment of this patient was based Hippocrates thoughts that said: it is more important to consider other ancient medical traditions prior to the knowledge we have nowadays. For this reason, the author used the reasoning of traditional Chinese medicine, first, taking out Heat retention, through apex ear bloodletting and reorienting the patient, through Chinese dietary counseling, avoiding all the food that would harm the internal energy, especially food with Hot energy that would lead to more internal Heat formation. The homeopathic medication Sulphur was also used to take out the Heat retention. Sulphur is formed on volcanos, from the fire, and as it is a high-diluted medication, it treats the internal Heat present on the body [8-16].

After taking out the Heat retention, the treatment done with homeopathic and crystal-based medications aimed to tone the deficient energies of the patient, to avoid the formation of more internal Heat that was leading to the cellulitis symptoms. If not treating the energies imbalances, more internal Heat would be formed, not improving the symptoms of hyperemia [13-17]. These medications more detailed in the article entitled *Constitutional Homeopathy of Five Elements based on Traditional Chinese Medicine* published by Acta Scientific Medical Sciences on July 2020 [10]. The use of antibiotics, in the case of this patient, could worsen the case of the patient, as the antibiotics are high-concentrated medications, according to the Arndt-Schultz law (Figure 8), they could harm the vital energy of the patient even further, generating more formation of internal Heat, and not improving the symptoms of hyperemia presented by the patient [17].

In this case, when evaluating from the point of view of Western medicine, her case could be evaluated as resistance of the bacteria to the antibiotics, and the treatment would be changed for a broader spectrum antibiotic, leading to a worsening on her vital energy, and more formation of internal Heat, and could erroneously be interpreted as

resistant of bacteria to the antibiotics prescribed [7]. The author already has several published studies, regarding the treatment of community and nosocomial infections without using antibiotics, because, according to the logic of traditional Chinese medicine and Hippocrates, the energy imbalances of the patient have to be treated, not the disease in itself [9-18].



According to Hippocrates: Natural forces within us are the true healers of the disease. The first step on the treatment of this patient was to change her diet. According to Hippocrates: Make your food your medicine and your medicine your food. The foods that were orientating the patient to avoid were: fried foods, chocolate, eggs, coconut, melted cheese, alcoholic beverages. These foods could induce more internal Heat formation, and in this case, could aggravate even more the hyperemia symptoms presented by the patient, only by the ingestion of wrong foods. Another group of foods recommended to avoid were dairy products, cold water, sweets, and raw foods. This group of foods can induce Spleen –pancreas deficiency and leading to malabsorption of nutrients, and aggravating the deficiency of Blood of this patient, and consequently, leading to more internal Heat formation and more hyperemia symptoms, erroneously

interpreted as resistance of bacteria by the antibiotics used in her case. The last groups of foods that the author advised the patient to avoid were coffee, soda and matte tea. These groups of foods are important to improve more the energy of the Kidney, that it is impaired due to Kidney *Yang* deficiency state of this patient. This Kidney insufficiency, if not properly treated, could induce internal Heat formation too, aggravating the formation of internal Heat, leading to worsening of the patient symptoms [8-19]. The use of antibiotics, in the case of this patient, could worsen the case of the patient, as the antibiotics are high-concentrated medications, according to the Arndt-Schultz law (Figure 8) they could harm the vital energy of the patient even further, generating more formation of internal Heat, and not improving the symptoms of hyperemia presented by the patient. In this case, when evaluating from the point of view of Western medicine, her case may be evaluated as resistance of the bacteria to the antibiotic, and the treatment would be changed for a broader spectrum antibiotic, leading to a worsening on her vital energy, and more formation of internal Heat, that is the energy imbalance leading to the infection symptoms [17].

The author is an infectious disease specialist, and work in Brazil. One of her work, in the past, was controlling the use of anti-microbial medications in the hospital to prevent the development of resistance of the bacteria, very common nowadays.. According to the physician Ventola, in the article entitled *Antibiotics Crises*; he is affirming that there are rapid emergences of resistance of bacteria worldwide, endangering life of our patients [19]. That is why the author is bringing this kind of treatment as an option to the physician that could be facing patients in this condition, having infectious process and the antibiotics is resistant to the bacteria, as she had published several articles treating many kinds of infectious diseases, community and hospital infections all without the use of antibiotics [11,20-23]. In all her publications, she is demonstrating that the infection condition is only in the leaf level of the tree, demonstrated in the Figure 1 or the metaphor of the tree. What was done in the treatment of this specific patient reported in this article, was that she had energies deficiencies leading to the formation of internal Heat, and all the procedure the author used in the treatment

of this patient was to take out the Heat retention thought the orientations of correct diet according to Chinese dietary principals (looking at the energy property of each food), e after, she used the balance of the internal energy doing auricular acupuncture and systemic acupuncture, to restore the balance state of *Yin*, *Yang*, *Qi* and Blood.

The use of homeopathy Sulphur, in this case, was to treat the Heat retention as this medication came from the vulcanios, and the author treated her according what Hahnemann state, the simillimum theory [24]. The author is demonstrating in this publication the importance to look the patient as a whole, in the energy point of view because she knows that this kind of infection can have a severe evolution if not properly treated, but at the same moment, she is inviting the physician to see the other point of view, that when using the antibiotics, the patient could have more deficiency of energy, and leading to other various infectious and non- infectious complications or even death, because of decreasing the vital energy of this patients. That is why it is necessary to see the other views; to see and analyze which could be the best for the patient and what could be possible, depending on the clinical situation of each patient. Each patient has to be analyzed individually and depending on each situation, they can see the possibility of trying other forms of treatments instead of giving antibiotics that could harm the energy of the patient even more [7-11]. If the condition of the patient is, severe that has risk of life, the use of antibiotics is much recommended but after this treatment, it is important to treat the patient's energies deficiencies that the patient had and have after the infection treatment, induced by the antibiotics use, according to the Arndt Shultz Law, in the Figure 8 [17]. What the author wants to emphasize in this article is that, the majority of patients nowadays are treated with antibiotics that is leading to the decrease in the vital energy. Vital energy means immunity in TCM and the majority of the chronic diseases came from the deficiency in the energy of the chakras energies centers [8,25-27]. To replenish the chakras' energies, the author used the theory created by her entitled *Constitutional Homeopathy of the Five Elements based on Traditional Chinese Medicine*, and the medications to treat and replenish each chakra's were described in the Table 3 [10].

Chakras	Five Elements	Homeopathy Medications	Crystal-based medications
1º Chakra	wood/Liver	Phosphorus	Garnet
2º Chakra	Water/Kidney	Natrum muriaticum	Orange calcite
3º Chakra	Fire/Heat	Sulphur	Rhodochrosite
4º Chakra	Metal/Lung	Silicea	Emerald
5º Chakra	Earth/Spleen	Calcarea carbonica	Blue Quartz
6º Chakra	Water/Kidney	Tone 2º Chakra	Sodalite
7º Chakra	wood/Liver	Tone 1º Chakra	Tiger eye

Table 3: Highly dilluted medications used in the treatment to replish the chakras energies centers.

The author did one research from 2015 to 2020, studying all the chakras' energies centers of 1000 patients. What she discovered is that 90% of her patients were in the lowest level of energy in any chakras' energies centers, meaning that the majority of the patients are very weak in relation to their internal energy, though this was discovered. For this reason that the author is trying to tone the chakras energies centers of the patients with highly diluted medications, shown in the Table 3, and if one of these patients in the research of the author needs some type of antibiotics to treat infection, all of them will have more energy deficiencies, leading to worsening of the energy state. That is why the necessity for more options for treatment, without the use of antibiotics, to use in this kind of patients that we have nowadays [17,20-27].

The author wants to emphasize that all the tools used to treat this patient, such as the use of acupuncture and homeopathy medications are two both recognized by Brazilian Federal Council of Medicine since 1995 and 1980 respectively [28]. To understand why this patient improves her infection symptoms without the use of any antibiotics, it is important to understand that Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine needs to work together, as one complements the other and one cannot exist without the other, as shown in the metaphor of *Yin* and *Yang* of Western and traditional Chinese medicine, in the Figure 9 [9-18].

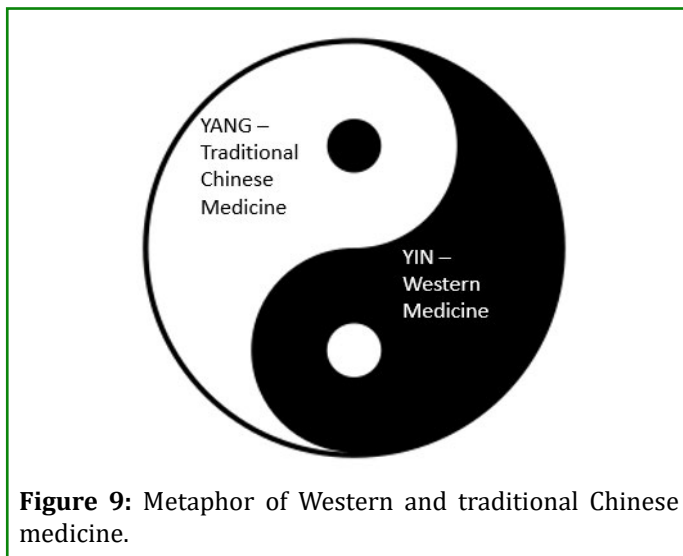


Figure 9: Metaphor of Western and traditional Chinese medicine.

Conclusion

It is possible to treat nosocomial-cellulitis post placement of hemodialysis catheter without the use of antibiotics, according to this case report. To achieve this result, it is important to correct the energy imbalances presented by each patient, taking out Heat retention and correcting the diet according to the energy point of view.

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