

Chinese Medicine and the Treatment of Cancer

Chinese Medicine can be an effective component in the prevention and treatment of cancer. There are several ways which it can be utilized. Firstly, once someone has been diagnosed with cancer, for example, and Western treatment such as chemotherapy and/or radiation has begun, the use of acupuncture and sometimes herbal medicine can be quite effective in mitigating the side effects of these treatments, such as the accompanying nausea and fatigue. If surgery is performed, acupuncture can assist in the healing of the affected area.

More importantly, however, is the recognition that the allopathic approach, i.e. chemotherapy and radiation and surgery is quite invasive and aggressive, and necessarily so in many cases. While, for the most part, no one questions that this approach is frequently crucial and life saving, it is important to remember that it is not a therapy that supports and strengthens the person's system through the treatment process and beyond. On the contrary, most times it is quite debilitating. This is where the Chinese Medical approach can be such a valuable adjunct. It provides a strengthening and enhancing therapy that supports the immune system and assists the individual to stay stronger and more resilient through the conventional cancer treatment process. This also applies to the ongoing recovery process. Both acupuncture and herbs can facilitate a speedier return to optimum health and well being.

None of us really knows why any one individual gets cancer. There are so many potential contributing factors, from hereditary tendencies and constitutional vulnerabilities to life style and emotional factors as well as environmental insults. However, in the assessment of a person's state of health, Chinese Medicine looks at patterns and weaknesses that might contribute to one possibly being more susceptible to serious disease. Even after successful cancer treatment these tendencies can still remain and can compromise our future health. Thus, treating someone in the aftermath of a bout with cancer can look very much like treating someone who comes for preventive care. In both cases, the imbalances that interfere with someone experiencing vital health and resilience are assessed and treated in order to assist our birthright of well being to emerge and flourish.