



The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK)

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ACUPUNCTURE DOES HELP WITH IVF

Says Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK)

The debate about the benefits of acupuncture in aiding IVF fertility treatment, sparked by guidelines just issued by The British Fertility Society, has prompted a robust response from The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK).

The ATCM, representing more than 700 practitioners of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine in the UK, casts serious doubt on the British Fertility Society's analysis of trials on which the new guidelines are based.

Dr. Huijun Shen, MB, MM (China), ATCM President, says in a letter to the BFS:

"In traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practice, we focus on the general constitutional condition of the patient when treating infertility, aiming to rebalance the body condition and to make the body fit enough and ready for conception and foetus growth. Therefore we would use acupuncture once or twice a week for at least 2-3 months before and during IVF procedure, as one or two sessions of acupuncture are not adequate to rebalance the body (***BFS analysed trials that comprised only one or two sessions of acupuncture***). No wonder that in these trials, "acupuncture" did not make any difference. You would not use one-tenth of the normal dose of penicillin

to treat pneumonia and then claim that penicillin is not effective for pneumonia.”

Dr. Shen added, “Enormous numbers of cases of infertility have been successfully treated by acupuncture.” On behalf of The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK) he has offered help and cooperation to the BFS in investigating the efficacy of real acupuncture for infertility.

Note For Editors:

Dr. Huijun Shen is available for comment on **07904 150127**, e-mail: info@atcm.co.uk , ATCM Tel/Fax: **020 8951 3030**

The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK) represents over 700 trained practitioners of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine working throughout the UK, 80% of who are of Chinese origin. Formed in 1994, the ATCM is the largest self- regulatory body for the practice of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) including acupuncture. Since 2002, the ATCM has been actively involved in, and remains committed to, the Department of Health move towards statutory regulation of the sector.

All full members of ATCM hold a university, college or other recognised professional qualification at or above BSc level. The website www.atcm.co.uk lists all members and a local practitioner can be found via the website’s “Find A Registered Practitioner” search.

For the full text of ATCM response to The British Fertility Society Guidelines, see:

<http://www.atcm.co.uk/letter%20to%20British%20Fertility%20Society%20Secretariat.pdf>

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