

Oriental Medical Physiology

Taiyang (Small Intestine and Urinary Bladder) Physiology

Six Levels of Physiology In Chinese Medicine

- Taiyang (UB/SI) – Opens outward (to outside)
- Shaoyang (GB/SJ) – Pivot
- Yangming (LI/ST) – Closes inward
- Taiyin – (LU/SP) – Opens outward (to inside)
- Shaoyin – (HT/KD) – Pivot
- Jueyin – (LV/PC) – Closes inward

Taiyang Introduction

- With Yang organs/channels, movement supercedes yin substance - yang organs are 'replete but not filled up' - hollow pathways that must be kept moving at all times
- Tai character is big but means bigger than big - modified from da which is big
 - Therefore it is large in both scope, but also surface area
 - Taiyang level is broad and expansive
 - It rises to the surface of the channel system (analogy to vapors off the top of the bamboo dumpling steamer)
 - It nourishes and discharges through the skin and hair with warm moisture radiating from the qi dynamic of the yin organs

Taiyang Introduction

- Taiyang, like taiyin, has an outward opening - taiyin opens to the internal environment while taiyang opens to the outer environment
 - Taiyang is therefore the first line of defense from external invasion
 - Defense is achieved by warming and discharging the exterior - protects the body from cold
 - Also creates comfort and if this function is compromised and the normal warming and discharging is disrupted, there can be pain and discomfort
 - Taiyang opens and closes the interstices - much like capillaries in the skin respond to environmental changes - opening sends protective qi to the area and closing implies constriction to prevent cold from invading
 - Once the invasion occurs, goal is no longer to close, but re-establish opening - this is because there is blockage

Taiyang Introduction

- Connects internally with the shaoyin
 - Warmth and moisture from qi dynamic of yin organs is able to radiate out through taiyang

Small Intestine

The small intestine holds the office of receptacle of plenty; the transformation of substances issue from it

- Receptacle of plenty can be worded holder of plenty
 - Might bring to mind the image of a bowl to a Chinese reader
 - This would mean it is a brief stopping place for assimilation and modification
 - Remnants of food essence passed from the stomach undergo modification
 - SI takes in food fermented from the stomach and then further separates out constituent parts - it separates clear from turbid
 - Simply this is removing clear fluids from waste
 - Possibly also implies taking aspects for heavier turbid materials important for thick fluids (Jin ye), especially associated with glandular secretions

Small Intestine Functions

- Controls receiving and transforming
- Separates fluids

Small Intestine

Functions - Controls Receiving and Transforming

- Receives food and drink from the Stomach
 - Separates, clear part goes to the Spleen, turbid part goes to the Bladder for excretion as urine and the LI for excretion in stool.
- Provides essential substances
 - Stomach takes in raw materials and ferments
 - Spleen removes essential substances from food, which is then held by the SI
 - Activity of separating the clear from the turbid in the SI involves a further clarifying and separating
 - Clear are sent back to the Spleen where they are processed into nutritive substances
 - Some turbid are used in production of thick fluids
 - Remainder are transported down to LI

Small Intestine

Functions - Separates Fluids

- Removes excess water
 - Sends fluids down to LI and Bladder for removal.
 - SI therefore has a direct functional relationship with the Bladder and an influence on urinary function
 - SI points can be used to treat urinary problems
 - Especially relevant to Heart-Heat

Urinary Bladder

The Bladder holds the office of regional rectifier; yin and yang fluids are stored in it and can be excreted when the qi is transformed

- Yin and yang fluids is a very broad term
 - Fluids include thin and thick fluids (Jin Ye)
 - Thick fluids are considered more yin while thin fluids are more yang and mobile
 - The bladder, which maintains the fluid volume, determines how much fluid is stored in the body and how much is released
- Statement about qi is transformed indicates the necessity of the fire at the gate of vitality in the transformation

Urinary Bladder

Functions – Removes Water by Qi Transformation

- The fluids sent from the SI pass to the Urinary Bladder where they are further processed.
- The Bladder stores fluids
 - Involves the storage and passage of urine
 - Also sends clear fluids back up
 - Thus Bladder in Chinese medicine is not just concerned with waste fluids, but also healthy fluids
 - Kidney connection is important as Ming-Men Fire is necessary to warm and move fluid, warming and discharging to the surface.