THE NETHERLANDS
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NATIONAL/REGIONAL PRACTICES

A. Type(s) of Medical Acupuncture most commonly practiced:

1. TCM
   - Chinese philosophical principles are used to describe phenomena in history and examination. Life and body are described as a landscape with hills, valleys and rivers. Energy, the Qi, is flowing in the rivers. Phenomena are described in terms of Yin/Yang (cold/warm, male/female, outside/inside,...), five elements (Water, Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and as Organs; Kidney, Liver, Heart, Spleen, Lungs) and the twelve meridians. Pulse- and Tongue-diagnosis is used. Dynamic balance and its disturbances is described and treated. TCM includes Acupuncture, Moxa, Chinese Herbs, Food, Qi Gong and Tuina.

2. Auriculo Medicinae
   - The whole body is projected on the ear (somatotopy). The vegetative nervous system is used for measuring and detection and for the treatment of energetic and pathological disorders on somatic and psycho-emotional level. There are different possibilities for treatment, both for acute as for chronic and constitutional disturbances

3. EAV (Electro-Acupuncture according to Voll).
   - This is a biophysical method of measurement. Electrical resistance of acupuncture points are used to give diagnosis and treatment. Principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine like the energetic relations between organs and the concept of dynamic balance between organs are used and translated in homeostasis of the internal and external cellular environment.

4. Segmental Acupuncture
   - Neuro-physiologic knowledge is the basis of this form of acupuncture. No philosophical basis outside western science is needed. There is a simple connection with regular diagnosis and therapy. Other segmental methods like trigger point-therapy, manual therapy and Neural therapy are linked. Simple neuro-anatomic and neuro-physiologic explanations are often possible for classic acupuncture treatments.
B. Education/Training Requirements

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CORE CURRICULUM

TCM:

Training begins with education in the basic theories of Chinese medicine which includes the theory of Yin and Yang and Five Phases, theory of Zang Fu and their manifestations, theory of Qi, Blood and Body Fluid, the basic substances, theory of channels and collaterals, theory of etiology and pathology, theory of pathogenesis, theory of differentiation of syndromes, theory of functional disorders, therapy-strategy. There is necessarily a stepwise education, first in traditional Chinese medical physiology, pathology and pathogenesis, then in diagnosis, syndrome analysis, and treatment principles. Training in diagnosis includes specific courses dedicated to teaching the nuances of tongue and pulse diagnosis. Starting with local treatment, local points and Ah Shi points, then meridians and outer disorders, organs and inner disorders, functional disorders, causes of illness and pathogenic factors, the Ba Gang principle, Zang Fu organs, extraordinary meridians, tendino-muscular meridians.

Education in the practical application of acupuncture therapy also progresses in a stepwise manner beginning with study of the channels and collaterals, point location and actions, then basic and advanced needle technique and acupuncture treatment principles. Therapeutic techniques include moxibustion and other techniques derived from
acupuncture including cupping therapy, electro-acupuncture and auricular therapy. Training is integrated in the courses. Clinical hours are followed with experienced acupuncture-doctors supervising in their own practice.

**Auricular Therapy:**

The curriculum begins with a review of the history of auricular acupuncture all over the world. The curriculum also addresses the anatomy, the embryology and the innervations of the ear. It also addresses the details of Nogier’s discovery and its evolution to the three-phase system. The curriculum addresses the characteristics of the acupuncture microsystem in general and the bases of their ability to holographically reflect the memory retention pattern of the brain. The concept of auricular territories and auricular phases are discussed including the evolution of the auricular system from the simple inverted fetus presentation to the sophisticated 3-phase system. The concept of the 7 Nogier frequencies and the auricular zones with the various master points are also addressed. The projection somatotopy of the three embryological tissues (mesoderm, endoderm and ectoderm) are fully discussed with their relative clinical application to acute, chronic and chronic degenerative pathology. The curriculum then takes the students to multiple clinical practice sessions of point identification and clinical applications of three-phase auricular therapy. Identification and treatment of energetic blockages are discussed. The students are guided on how to conduct a proper auricular consultation and the application of treatment principles. The anatomical and the physiological principles of choosing the appropriate ear for treatment are discussed together with the principles of using the various auricular needles, electrical devices, laser devices, magnets, beads, and pellets. Multiple sessions of clinical practice are aimed at gearing the students to appropriately examine, diagnose, and treat various clinical and energetic problems, like resistance to therapy, focus-therapy, addiction therapy, pain treatment.
EAV:
EAV, Electro Acupuncture according to Voll, is a western development of acupuncture. It is an bio-electrical and electromagnetic measurement and treatment system. The Basic Bio Regulation System has the “Grundsystem von Pischinger” as fundamental. In recent years this form of therapy is developing more to a specific form as biophysical medicine. The principles and theory is studied and practical training done. Further study is necessary for those who choose to.

Segmental Acupuncture:
Western medical diagnosis is the starting point of segmental diagnosis. Translating western diagnosis by neuro-anatomic and neuro-physiologic theory into segmental diagnosis and then therapy is the goal. The locomotor disorders of upper and lower extremities and disorders of thorax and abdomen are treated. The relation of segmental acupuncture, Trigger point-acupuncture, manual therapy and neural therapy are treated. Scientific outcomes are discussed. Principles of theory and treatment are trained.
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