

SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF ELECTRODERMAL VEGA TESTING

The concept that the body is a bio-regulatory mechanism under electro-magnetic control is not new. The Chinese developed a sophisticated theory of energy (chi) and bio-electrical control through the acupuncture meridian system of the body. The Indians developed an analogous system based on breath energy (prana) and electro-magnetic control points called chakras. It was not until the early 1950's that a German medical doctor found that he could accurately locate acupuncture points using a simple electrical measuring device. He found that acupuncture points had a uniquely different electrical resistance (lower) than the tissues immediately adjacent to them. Dr. Voll mapped the entire body using his device which he called the DERMATRON.¹ He also discovered a method of testing the allergic response of substance using the Dermatron without physically introducing the material into the patient.

Dr. Voll's technique involved a lengthy testing session with the patient to measure hundreds of points all over the body and resulted in a prescription involving several dozen homeopathic and herbal remedies.

In the early 1970's, another German, Dr. Schimmell, a dentist, simplified Dr. Voll's technique by inventing another electrodermal diagnostic device called the VEGATEST.² Dr. Schimmell took all measurements on one acupuncture point on the finger and varied which organ system was being measured by putting a homeopathic dilution of it into a metal honeycomb on the machine. Much research continues into the technique in Germany, and the method has more recently become completely computerized and automated through a device called the Segmentalelektrogram (Seg).

Dr. Julian Kenyon has done considerable clinical research in the application of the Vega technology to the field of clinical ecology at the Centre for the Study of Alternative Therapies in England.^{3 4 5 6}

At least three double-blind studies have been published on electrodermal allergy testing. Dr. Ali found a 73% concordance between electrodermal testing and ELISA IgE antibody levels for a variety of pollens and moulds.⁷ Dr. Kiop in Toronto found a 66% correspondence in identifying the neutralization sublingual dose for a variety of foods, chemicals and inhalants between the electrodermal test and intradermal sublingual testing.⁸

In 1984, a University of Hawaii research team compared six different diagnostic modalities for assessing food allergies including history, food challenge, skin, RAST, IgE antibodies, and electrodermal.⁹ In over 300 tests, electrodermal testing matched the history 74%, the food challenge test 77%, skin testing 71%, and RAST testing 69%. This research group which has already published several research studies, is embarking on an extensive five-year study on the efficacy of the electrodermal testing procedure in medical practice.^{10 11 12}

¹ Voll, R. : "Twenty years of electroacupuncture diagnosis in Germany," American Journal of Acupuncture, vol. 3, 7-17, 1975.

² Fehrenbach, J., Noll, H., Nolte, H.G. & Schimmell, H.: Short Manuel of the VEGATEST method. Vega Grieshaber, 1981.

³ Kenyon, J. : Modern Techniques of Acupuncture, vol. 3, Thorsons, 1985.

⁴ Lewith, G. & Kenyons, J. : Clinical Ecology, Thorsons, 1985

⁵ Kenyon, J. : "Diagnostic Techniques of the Future: Bioenergetic Regulatory Medicine", Journal of Alternative Medicine, vol. 12, December 1985.

⁶ Kenyon, J. : Twentieth Century Medicine, Thorsons, 1986.

⁷ Ali, M. : "Correlation of IgE antibodies with specificity for pollen and mould allergy with changes in electrodermal skin responses following exposure to allergens", American Journal of Clinical Pathology, 91:357, 1989.

⁸ Kiop, J., Swierczek, J., Wood, A. : "Comparison of Ecological Testing with the Vega Test Method in Identifying Sensitivities to Chemicals, Foods and Inhalants", American Journal of Acupuncture, 13:253-59, 1985.

⁹ Lam, F., Tsuei, J., : "Case Findings from a Family Practitioners Office Using Electroacupuncture According to Voll", American Journal of Acupuncture, vol. 11, 23-29, 1983.

¹⁰ Lam, F., Tsuei, J., Zhao, Z. : "Bioenergetic Regulatory Measurement Instruments and Devices", American Journal of Acupuncture, vol. 16, 345-49, 1988.

¹¹ Tsuei, J., et al., "Study on Bioenergy in Diabetes Mellitus Patients", American Journal of Acupuncture, vol. 17, 31-37, 1989.

¹² Lam, F., et al., "Study on the Bioenergetic Measurement of Acupuncture Points for determination of Correct Dosages of Allopathic or Homeopathic Medicines in the treatment of Diabetes Mellitus", American Journal of Acupuncture, vol. 18, 127-33, 1990.