

Birth Trauma and The Eight Extraordinary Vessels

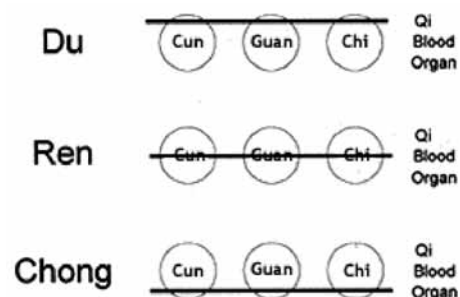
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Note: Access part one on the AAOM website www.aaom.org under "American Acupuncturist."

Eight Extra Pulse Method

Place the fingers on either the left or right wrist (take care that the fingers are evenly spaced and even pressure is used). Press until the first impulse hits the fingers. If all fingers are hit at once at the qi depth, it is a *du mai* pulse, if they are all hit at the same time at the blood depth, it is a *Ren Mai* pulse. If the pulse is deep and they all arrive at the organ depth, it is a *Chong Mai* pulse. If the index finger is hit first, it is a *Yang Qiao* pulse. If the middle finger is hit first, it is a *Dai* pulse. If the ring finger is hit first, it is a *Yin Qiao* pulse. One must roll the index finger toward the radius to find a *Yang Wei* pulse and toward the ulna to identify a *Yin Wei* pulse. In this instance, we are primarily interested in the core nuclear vessels. The linked post-natally influenced vessels related to the *Qiao Mai* and *Wei Mai* vessels may also be used.

Group One: These pulses are long and string-taut. The *du* is most superficial; the *ren* is in the middle depth; and the *chong* is the deepest.

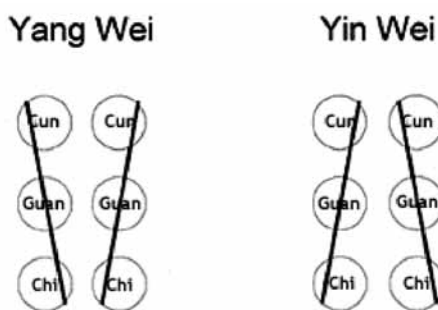


Group Two: The *yin qiao* is larger in the *yin* position (proximal - *chi* - cubit). The *yang qiao* is larger in the *yang* position (distal - *cun* - inch). The *dai* is larger in the middle (*guan* - bar) reflecting accumulation in the *dai* or belt channel.



Group Three:

In the distal position, the *yang wei* vessel is displaced toward the *yang* (thumb -- radial) and the *yin wei* is displaced toward the *yin* (little finger - ulnar). This must be confirmed in the proximal position by opposite displacement so that a true diagonal line is present. The *yin wei* and *yang wei* pulse descriptions are the only discussion of vessel displacement in current English translations of classical and neoclassical literature.



When a case begins to reveal life and symptom patterns, along with signs that correlate with one of the peri-natal birth matrices, there is usually a single vessel within the context of the eight extraordinary vessels that dominates the picture. When this occurs, the only vessels that are used are those for which there is ample clinical evidence. The master point for the vessel is employed along with tender points along the trajectory of the extraordinary vessel. It is important that the patient breathes with the use of the diaphragm in a full abdominal breathing method.

Peri-natal Set		Post-natal Set	
Du	SI3	Yang qiao	UB62
Ren	Lu7	Yin qiao	K6
Dai	Gb41	Yang wei	SI5
Chong	Sp4	Yin wei	P6

Along with the use of an extraordinary vessel, the periumbilical points of tenderness and stagnation can be used to reinforce the connection with the birth process as it relates to severing the umbilical cord, thus creating the first scar. The naval is the point of final severance from the physical pre-natal state, and is linked directly to the *Du*, the *Ren*, and the *Chong*. Palpate for stagnations to address peri-natal trauma along with the appropriate nuclear vessel.

Chinese Herbal Medicinals

The Chinese medicinals can be correlated with the four birth matrices of Grof. In the gestational stage, there is *yin* and an idyllic sense of communion and oneness. This calm and settled state is achieved with medicinals that nourish *yin*. When the first birth matrix is subject to physical, emotional or chemical traumas, this state is disturbed. The Chinese medicinal concept of fetal toxins are of real concern at this stage. Other conditions, such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia and infections, can also disturb the Eden-like environs in utero. When there are fetal toxins in the form of infections or chemical exposures, then the category "clear heat toxins" should be evaluated for clinical relevancy. Grof reports, and I have clinical experience of, cathartic clinical experiences that give rise to an excretion and recurrence of symptoms commensurate with toxic exposures such as these. I have seen cases where the mother, under extreme stress and in a state of hypervigilance during the gestational phase, has led to significant constitutional *yin*

depletion in the child that continues throughout the life. Yin supplementing agents, under these conditions, should be considered as a lifestyle strategy as much as it is appropriate. The herbal correlations with the extraordinary vessels are based on the author's experience and theoretical correlations. Please evaluate accordingly.

Categories

Chong Nourish and move blood
 Ren Nourish Yin, clear toxins, dissolve phlegm
 Du Boost Yang
 Dai Boost Qi, Move Qi, relieve food stagnation

Move Qi

Chong Fr Melia (Chuan Lian Zi)
 Cyperi (Xiang Fu)
 Ren Cyperi (Xiang Fu)
 Ligustici wallichii (Chuan Xiong)
 Saussurea (Mu Xiang)
 Du Xanthium Fr (Cang Er Zi)
 Ligusticum Rx (Gao Ben)
 Notopterygium (Qiang Huo)
 Dai Artemisia vulgaris (Ai Ye)
 Cimicifuga (Sheng Ma)

Move Blood

Chong Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui)
 Ligustici wallichii (Chuan Xiang)
 Ren Carapax Amydae (Bie Jia)
 Ligustici wallichii (Chuan Xiong)
 Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui)
 Du Carapax Amydae (Bie Jia)
 Dai Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui)
 All Achyranthes (Niu Xi)

Nourish Blood

Chong Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui),
 Salvia miltiorrhizae (Dan Shen)
 Ren Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui)
 Du Colla Cornus Cervi (Lu Jiao Jiao)
 Dai Angelica sinensis (Dang Gui),
 Peonia alba (Bai Shao)
 All Lycium (Gou Qi Zi), Rehmannia (Shu Di Huang)

Table II	Matrix	I	II	III	IV
Humor		Phlegmatic	Melancholic	Choleric	Sanguine
Eight Extra Nuclear Channels		Ren	Dai	Chong	Du
Herbal categories		Nourish yin	Boost qi	Supplement blood	Boost yang
Points		Lung 7	GB 41	Spleen 4	SI 3
Shen's Systems		Organ	Circulatory	Digestive	Nervous
Pulse		Tense at Blood depth	Excess Middle Burner	Tense at Organ depth	Floating Tense

Table II presents correlations from various subject domains to each of the pre-natal birth matrices.

Supplement Qi

Chong Atractylodes macrocephalae (Bai Zhu), Codonopsis (Dan Shen)
 Ren American Ginseng (Ren Shen)
 Du Astragalus (Huang Qi)
 Dai Schizandra (Wu Wei Zi)
 All Ginseng (Ren Shen)

Animal Products

These materials nourish essential substances. Animal products have a close relationship to Jing, and, as the Extraordinary vessels have a root in the Life Gate, animal products will nourish the Eight Extras. Animal products are one of the most efficient methods of supplementing Jing.

Chong Placenta hominis
 Ren Plastrum testudinis (Gui Ban)
 Du Deer Antler (Lu Rong)
 Dai Bile products, (San She Dan)

This is a completely new area of exploration and the author invites input as well as commentary regarding the concepts that are discussed in this paper.

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