Title: SORL-IM Saving Organs and Restoring Lives with Integrative Medicine: The Treatment of an Infant with Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (DBA) and Her Mother with Immune Dysfunction and Kidney Failure



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Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (DBA) is a rare blood disorder of bone marrow failure now widely accepted to be a disorder of ribosomal proteins. In DBA, erythroid precursors are particularly susceptible to apopotosis. Treatment includes red cell transfusion, corticosteroids, and/or bone marrow transplant. Life-threatening complications can result from all therapy options, including organ failure from iron overload in the transfusion-dependent and loss of heaing/vision due to iron chelation. This case study follows the treatment of a transfusion-dependent female child from infancy to age five. Her treatment included several integrative medicine therapies, including iron chelation (deferasirox), dietary therapy, Chinese herbal medicine, shonishin, moxabustion, and homeopathtics. Using integrative methods, emergent levels of cardiac iron were removed in six months, the child gained weight, digestive distress and difficulty swallowing were relieved, and hearing/vision maintained. During this time, the child's mother was also treated for kidney failure and immune dysfunction. Kidney abnormality was revealed via ultrasound and laboratory testing, with immune dysfunction suggested by anti-nuclear antibody and complement levels. Electro-acupuncture improved kidney function from 10-20% as measured by nuclear medicine function tests, while herbal medicine, homeopathics, and adaptogenics restored total estimated glomeular filtration rate (eGFR) from 57 to 72 and creatinine from 1.1 to 0.7. Combined therapies, including dietary, decreased subjective pain in the flanks, abdomen, and spine, while surgery to place stents and remove a urethral obstruction preserved kidney cellular structure. Presently, the mother is considered in remission and excellent health, while efforts continue to optimize the child's health and usher her into remission.

Biography

Erika F. Marie, *LAc.*, completed her Master of Science in Oriental Medicine (MSOM) from the National University of Natural Medicine (NUNM) in Portland, Oregon, and her Bachelor of Science in Engineering Psychology from the United States Military Academy (USMA), West Point. Erika is the founder of Chiyu Center and a leading advocate for integrative medicine. She currently serves on the Board of Directors as Chair of Public Relations for the Acupuncture Association of Colorado (AAC) and is the author of the to-be-published book, *Autoimmunity, Sex and the Dao*.

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Session name/ number: Integrative Medicine
Category: Oral presentation