Abstract

Exploring the physiological reactions to cupping treatment applying Moustafa Ali's Protocol a pilot study of the impact of cupping therapy on pathological semen parameters in male infertility

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Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) is becoming more popular with the public and gaining credibility within biomedical health care . Standard Therapeutic Dose (STD) is the key. Three sessions administered with third session using scratch. The World Health Organization defines infertility as the inability of a sexually active, non- contracepting couple to achieve spontaneous pregnancy for year. In general, 15 % of couples do not get pregnant during this time and seek for medical treatment. In 50% of involuntarily childless couples, it is found that abnormal semen parameters are accompanied by *male-infertility-associated factor* together with abnormal semen parameters.

In 30-40% of cases, no male-infertility-associated factor is found (idiopathic male infertility) however, semen analysis reveals a decreased number of spermatozoa, sperm motility or many abnormal forms.

In the first HMZ case study based on the Ali Protocol six patients with male infertility and mostly extreme reduced semen quality parameters were examined. Protocol is applied for 6 – 8 weeks. Semen analysis was done for two times initially, 3 times during the treatment interval and one efficiency-control 3 month after the last cupping therapy. One dropped out because of a Sertoli-cell-only syndrome. One of 5 patients had a significant improvement of his semen quality and three showed or reported positive general effects. This was evidence that cupping is efficient to treat male infertility. In the mentioned case the efficiency-control after 3 month exhibited a clear increase of sperm-concentration from krypto-zoospermia (< 1 mil/ml sperm) near to normozoo-spermia (> 15 mil/ml sperm). The sperm-motility became normal for the first time.

In conclusion, the next step has to be a randomized controlled trial (RCT) with more patients to prove the effectiveness of cupping therapy, as first data have been promising. Simple defined technique and tools facilitated good results.

Keywords—*cupping,infertility,motility,sperm*

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Elisabeth Buhlmann (born 1968 in Germany) studied medicine at the Gutenberg University in Mainz. Expert in neurology, gynecology and andrology. In the 1990s she was involved in research on the pharmaco-dynamics and pharmacokinetics of antiarrhythmic drugs. Mrs. Buhlmann passed a TCM - Training at the German Society of Traditional Chinese Medicine (DGTCM) in Heidelberg in 2002. Having been a TCM - Doctor in Karlsruhe from 2004 to 2011, she joined in 2011 the HanseMerkur Center for TCM at the UKE. Mrs Buhlmann also investigated the effect of a single needle acupuncture treatment on peripheral arterial disease (PAD). In 2013 she conducted cupping treatment of male infertility. Currently, she examines the effect of selected Chinese medicinal herbs on lipid disorders, in colla-boration with the University of Zurich



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