

Talking About a Case of Cerebral Palsy

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Child patient Chris was born on October 24, 1995. On April 15, 2002, he began to accept the treatment of Chinese Medicine.

According to the description from his parents, Chris had been in hospital after the three days he was born because of 101°F high fever. After getting out of hospital, several symptoms had appeared in succession, such as hard to feed, easy to get excited and scared, slow growth, weak intramuscular strength, and difficult to express with words. And quite a few doctors thought that “the child will grow sooner or later” and they did not pay much attention on the early symptoms.

At the first visit, I diagnosed the symptoms to be a light-degree cerebral cell trauma sequela. The child was small and slim, and his height was 41 inches, and his weight was 37 pounds. Bone age test report showed that his bone age was only at the age of four years and four months while he was six years and three months old. Chris was slightly mentally retarded. He did not talk much and could not speak fluently. His speech was unclear and he could not speak a complete sentence. His language ability was at the level of three years old. Even though Chris was able to walk, his muscle was very weak. He could not sit for long time. When he was writing, his hand would shake so that it was hard to draw a straight line. The ability of gross motor was at the level of five years old. He could not jump with one leg. Besides, he would feel faint from fear obviously when some parts of his body were touched. These clinical symptoms showed clearly that his central nerve cells for his mentality, language and gross motor had been already damaged slightly.

Based on his symptoms and my clinical experiences, I think that even though he already missed the best sanative age of three years old, he still has a chance to be healed and to live a normal life because of the following reasons: the trauma of his cerebral cell is not severe and his parents have a strong desire and are willing to cooperate with specific functional training under my guidance.

Here are the feedback and observations from his parents during the first two months treatment:

- After 10th treatment (05/04/2002), when Chris played in the park, he could climb across the steel stand three times in succession all by himself. (Before treatment, he could only climb half of the steel stand with the help of his father.)
- After 11th treatment (05/08/2002), Chris said three complete sentences to his mother correctly and clearly. (He could not do this at all before.)
 1. Do not touch this hand of mine.

2. I have finished my homework, and you should give me a red flower sticker.
 3. I want to wash my hands in the kitchen.
- After 12th treatment (05/10/2002), on his own initiative Chris told his grandmother that he fell asleep during the last treatment session. (It shows that he could express his feeling.)
 - After 14th treatment (05/13/2002), the school teacher recalled that Chris spoke much more than before.
 - After 15th treatment (05/16/2002), with one month of the treatment, Chris's height increased by one inch (he is 42 inch), and his weight gained one pound as well (he weighs 38 pounds).
 - After 16th treatment (05/17/2002), Chris voluntarily led the prayer in the school, and asked the questions in the class for his classmate. (He was afraid of speaking because of his poor language ability.)
 - After 30th treatment (06/14/2002), when he was in the road, he kept asking his mom the same question in the car and the level of question was getting higher.
 - After 33rd treatment (06/19/2002), he could take a long dialogue with his mother, and could talk his requirement and opinion calmly. He spoke complete sentences but slowly.
 - After 36th treatment (06/26/2006), his teacher recalled his sitting posture is steadier.

The above records have indicated that with two months' treatment Chris's language ability has been improved to the level of four years old and his muscle strength has also improved significantly.

Modern medicine thinks the pathology of child's cerebral paralysis is caused by brain cell's hypoplasia (i.e. incomplete development) or putrescence (i.e. decay). According to the western medicine's theory of "brain cell cannot be recovered" (The theory was questioned about two years ago), cerebral palsy is labeled as "incurable". As a result, western medicine concludes that this disease cannot be cured and the affected children can only be trained to fit the situation.

According to Chinese medicine, this disease is called as "five kinds of maldevelopment" (i.e., tardiness of ability to stand, to walk and to speak, and of growth of the hair and the teeth), and "five kinds of flabbiness" (flabbiness of head, of neck, of hands and feet, of muscles and of mouth). They were documented in details in the following ancient Chinese medicine books such as "Tai Ping Sheng Hui Fang", "San Yin Fang" and "Qian Jin Fang" in Tang and Song Dynasties around one thousand years ago. Chinese medicine's treatment has its own theory – "the body's interior shows on exterior" means the occurrence of exterior symptoms is based on its interior's morbidity (Chinese medicine calls "Zheng"). In the course of adjustment of the main and collateral channels through which vital energy circulates and along which the acupuncture points are distributed, it changes the basis of the interior morbidity, then the exterior symptom disappears. For example, "Tardiness of walking in infancy" is mainly due to the deficiency of liver and kidney energy, which causes the flabbiness of bone and muscles. "Tardiness of learning to speak in infants" is due to the deficiency of heart-energy which controls the movement of tongue. By improving the internal factors relating to the energies of heart,

liver, kidney, and spleen, the external symptoms will disappear thus the disease can be cured. Based on Chinese medicine, the criteria for cure refer to the state that the patient no longer displays any abnormal functions. As to the questions in western medicine such as whether the damaged brain cells have been recovered or replaced, they are not significant to clinical practice in Chinese medicine. Based on such theory and practice, I can treat patients with therapeutic massage, which stimulates the related body area and acupuncture points and thus corrects the abnormal moving joints and restores the physiological functions to normal. In the past thirty years, I have treated about thirty cases of brain disorders. Every case has shown improvement of various degrees. Two of them were recovered fully and now attends normal school.

The best sanative age for child's cerebral paralysis is around three years old and clinical efficacy is the most obvious at this age. Normally minimum three treatments per week are required. In general, patients can show good results in one month. However, we must understand that the treatment for cerebral paralysis is a long process and usually uses "year" as a unit for assessment. In the two fully recovered cases, Mr. Yu's child was very severe and took five and half years to heal. And Mr. Zhou's child was less severe and took two and half years to heal. In the process of treatment, I always ask parents to give their child the specific functional training in order to enhance the clinical results. Parents' cooperation is very important.

In conclusion, Chinese medicine does not consider child cerebral palsy incurable. Early intervention and continuation of Chinese medicine treatment are the key elements for recovering child's cerebral palsy.