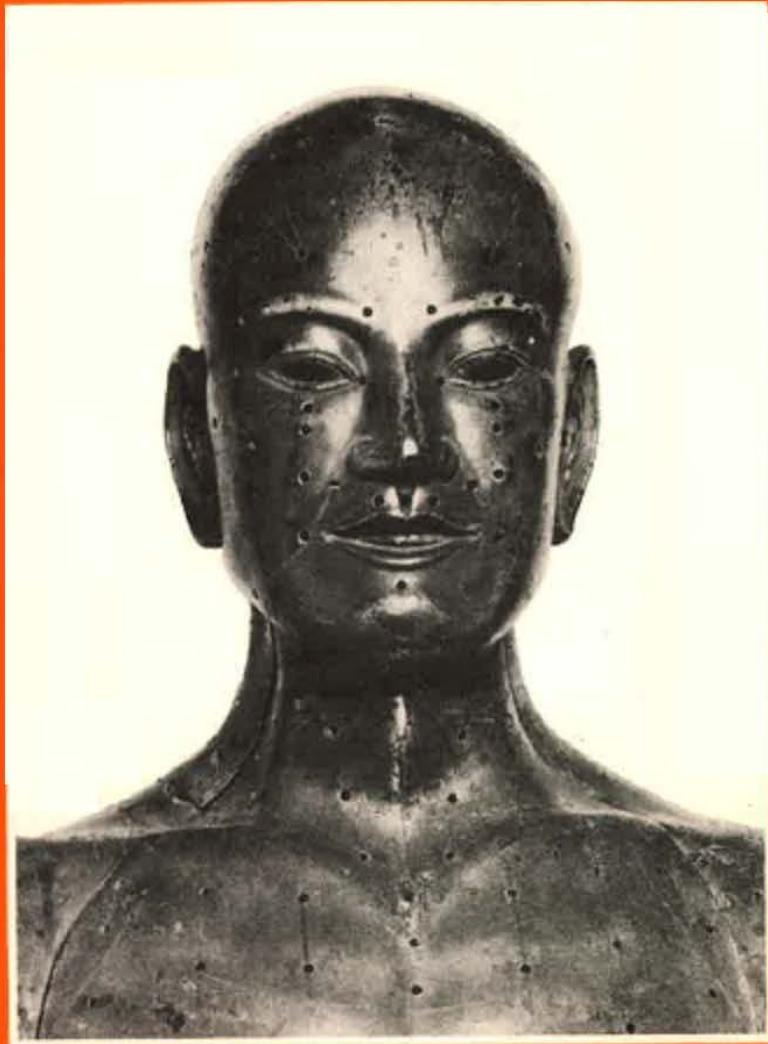


STANDARD ACUPUNCTURE NOMENCLATURE Part 2



World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Manila

STANDARD ACUPUNCTURE NOMENCLATURE Part 2

**Basic Technical Terms of Acupuncture
Eight Extra Meridians
Extra Points
Scalp Acupuncture
Acupuncture Needles
Unit of Measurement**

**World Health Organization
Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Manila**

1988

Cover: one of the oldest "copperman" statues
indicating the acupuncture points.
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the Tokyo National Museum

NOTE

The views expressed in this pamphlet are those of the members of the Regional Consultation Meeting on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, held in May 1984, the Second WHO Regional Working Group on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, held in July 1985, and the Third WHO Regional Working Group on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, held in June 1987, and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the World Health Organization.

For further information, please contact the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, P.O. Box 2932, Manila, Philippines.

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INTRODUCTION

With a view to achieving global agreement on a standard acupuncture nomenclature, the World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific has to date sponsored four regional meetings:

- (a) Working Group on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, Manila, December 1982;
- (b) Regional Consultation Meeting on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, Tokyo, May 1984;
- (c) Second Working Group on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, Hong Kong, July 1985; and
- (d) Third Working Group on the Standardization of Acupuncture Nomenclature, Seoul, June 1987.

The Manila meeting in 1982 established the nomenclature structure of the meridian and acupuncture points, and reached a consensus on 361 classical acupuncture points.

The Tokyo meeting in 1984 approved the standard nomenclature of 31 extra points and adopted brief explanations covering 361 classical acupuncture point names, the standard nomenclature of scalp acupuncture and the basic lines for locations of acupuncture points, except the Lateral Cranial Line and Lateral Abdominal Line.

The Hong Kong meeting in 1985 approved 17 extra and new points, the standard nomenclature of the eight extra meridians, with the exception of "Chongmai", and the standard English nomenclature of the basic technical terms of acupuncture.

The Seoul meeting in 1987 finalized the standard nomenclature of the eight extra meridians, developed the standard nomenclature of selected auricular points, acupuncture needles and unit for location of meridians and acupuncture points, finalized the standard nomenclature of forty-eight extra points, and adopted guidelines for development of the acupuncture chart.

A pamphlet entitled Standard Acupuncture Nomenclature was published and copies were distributed throughout the world. In 1984, a booklet entitled Standard Acupuncture Nomenclature, giving a comparative multilingual list in English, French, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese, was also published as a WHO Regional Publication, Western Pacific Series No. 1. This is now under revision, including the explanation of acupuncture point names.

The present pamphlet consists of six sections: (1) Standard nomenclature of basic technical terms of acupuncture; (2) Standard nomenclature of eight extra meridians; (3) Standard nomenclature of extra points; (4) Standard nomenclature of scalp acupuncture; (5) Standard nomenclature of acupuncture needles; and (6) Standard nomenclature of the unit of measurement.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF BASIC TECHNICAL TERMS OF ACUPUNCTURE

There have been differences in the English nomenclature of basic technical terms of acupuncture. For instance, Jing (經) was sometimes translated as "meridian", but at other times as "channel". Another example is Zhenjiuxue (鍼灸穴), which was translated as "acupuncture point" or "acupoint". The following standard nomenclature was adopted at the meeting held in Hong Kong in 1985:

Meridians	Jing	經(經, 经)
Collateral	Luo	絡(络)
Meridian and Collateral	Jiangluo	經(經, 经)絡(络)
Main Meridian	Zhengjing	正經(經, 经)
Extra Meridian	Qijing	奇經(經, 经)
Meridian Point	Jingxue	經(經, 经)穴
Extra Point	Qixue	奇穴
Acupuncture Point	Zhenjiuxue	鍼(針, 针)灸穴

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF EIGHT EXTRA MERIDIANS

At the meeting in Hong Kong in 1985, after a careful and detailed study and debate, the nomenclature for eight extra meridians was adopted with the exception of "Chongmai".

The term "Eight Extra Meridians", which includes the Conception and Governor Vessel Meridians plus six extra meridians, was officially recognized as the corporate title of this group.

It was unanimously decided to omit the terms "meridian" after Conception Vessel and Governor Vessel in order to standardize the nomenclature of the eight extra meridians.

The members were required to find a suitable English equivalent for "Chongmai" and to report to the Third Regional Working Group.

At the meeting in Seoul in 1987, "Chongmai" was again discussed. Various names were proposed by each member, such as Infusion Vessel, Sea Vessel, Gush Vessel, Flush Vessel, Charging Vessel and Ancestral Vessel. Most of the suggestions referred to the description in Neijing (內經 : Canon of Medicine), i.e. "sea of the blood and gas". Members from China, however, noted that it was impossible for them to find a suitable English equivalent.

After a lengthy discussion, the terms Charging, Flush, Gush, Infusion were grouped as one with similar meanings and, considering the alphanumeric code, it was finally decided to use Flush Vessel and the abbreviation FV, with a footnote "Further investigation of a more suitable English nomenclature might be necessary".

Thus, the nomenclature of the eight extra meridians is as follows:

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF EIGHT EXTRA MERIDIANS

GV	Dumai	督脈(脉)	Governor Vessel
CV	Renmai	任脈(脉)	Conception Vessel
FV	Chongmai	衝脈(冲脉)	Flush Vessel*
BV	Daimai	帶脈(带, 带脉)	Belt Vessel
YinHV	Yinqiaomai	陰蹻脈(阴跷脉)	Yin Heel Vessel
YangHV	Yangqiaomai	陽蹻脈(阳跷脉)	Yang Heel Vessel
YinLV	Yinweimai	陰維脈(阴维脉)	Yin Link Vessel
YangLV	Yangweimai	陽維脈(阳维脉)	Yang Link Vessel

*Further investigation of a more suitable English nomenclature might be necessary.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF EXTRA POINTS

At the Tokyo meeting in 1984, 31 extra points were adopted, all of which are those recorded in the medical classics and widely used. At the Hong Kong meeting in 1985, 5 extra points and 12 new points were adopted using the following criteria:

- (1) The points should be in common use.
- (2) They must be clinically effective.
- (3) They must have a clear anatomical location.
- (4) They must be at least 0.5 cun away from a classical acupuncture point.
- (5) If an extra point has the same name as an existing point, a prefix must be added to it.

At the Seoul meeting in 1987, a suitable nomenclature for all the 48 acupuncture points was discussed. After careful consideration, it was unanimously agreed that all points outside the 361 classical acupuncture points should be called Extra Points. This should include all new points introduced after 1901 A.D., including 12 new points adopted in Hong Kong, namely, Qiuhou, Shangyingxiang, Yiming, Dingchuan, Yaoyi, Xiakhishi, Yaotongdian, Wailaogong, Lanwei, Dannang, Neixiyuan and Xinei. Thus, all told, the Working Group adopted 48 extra points.

The alphanumeric code of these 48 extra points was then discussed. The following principles were established and the alphanumeric code was adopted:

- (1) head, neck and trunk regions, from the higher to the lower level;
- (2) upper and lower extremities, from the proximal to the distal level and, if at the same level, from the medial to the lateral.

The following standard nomenclature was adopted for the 48 extra points.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF EXTRA POINTS

Head and Neck

Toujing 頭(头)頸(頸, 颈)

Ex-HN1	Sishencong	四神(神)聰(聰)
*Ex-HN2	Dangyang	當(当)陽(阳)
Ex-HN3	Yintang	
Ex-HN4	Yuyao	魚(鱼)腰
Ex-HN5	Taiyang	太陽(阳)
Ex-HN6	Erjian	耳尖
*Ex-HN7	Qiuhou	球後(后)
*Ex-HN8	Shangyingxiang	上迎香
Ex-HN9	Neiyingxiang	内迎香
Ex-HN10	Juquan	聚泉
Ex-HN11	Haiquan	海泉
Ex-HN12	Jinjin	金津
*Ex-HN13	Yuye	玉液
*Ex-HN14	Yiming	翳明
*Ex-HN15	Jiangbailao	頸(頸, 颈)百勞(劳, 劳)

Chest and Abdomen

Xiongfu 胸腹

Ex-CA1	Zigong	子宮
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Back

Bei 背

*Ex-B1	Dingchuan	定喘
Ex-B2	Jiaji	夾(夹)脊
*Ex-B3	Weiwangxiashu	胃脘下俞
Ex-B4	Pigen	痞根
*Ex-B5	Xiazhishi	下志室
*Ex-B6	Yaoyi	腰宜
Ex-B7	Yaoyan	腰眼
Ex-B8	Shiqizhui	十七椎
Ex-B9	Yaoqi	腰奇

Upper Extremities
Shangzhi 上肢

Ex-UE1	Zhoujian	肘尖
Ex-UE2	Erbai	二白
Ex-UE3	Zhongquan	中泉
Ex-UE4	Zhongkui	中魁
Ex-UE5	Dagukong	大骨(骨)空
Ex-UE6	Xiaogukong	小骨(骨)空
*Ex-UE7	Yaotongdian	腰痛點(点)
*Ex-UE8	Wailaogong	外勞(勞, 劳)宮
Ex-UE9	Baxie	八邪
Ex-UE10	Sifeng	四縫(缝)
Ex-UE11	Shixuan	十宣

Lower Extremities
Xiazhi 下肢

*Ex-LE1	Kuangu	髌(髌)骨(骨)
Ex-LE2	Heding	鶴(鹤)頂(顶)
*Ex-LE3	Xinei	膝内
*Ex-LE4	Neixiyan	内膝眼
Ex-LE5	Xiyan	膝眼
Ex-LE6	Dannang	膽(胆)囊
*Ex-LE7	Lanwei	蘭(阑)尾
Ex-LE8	Neihuaijian	内踝尖
Ex-LE9	Waihuaijian	外踝尖
Ex-LE10	Bafeng	八風(风)
Ex-LE11	Duyin	獨(独)陰(阴)
*Ex-LE12	Qiduan	氣(气, 气)端

*Selected at the meeting in Hong Kong in 1985, the other 31 being selected at the meeting in Tokyo in 1984

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF SCALP ACUPUNCTURE

Scalp acupuncture therapy, whereby diseases are treated by needling on certain area of the head, has been employed in China since 1970. It is now becoming one of the therapeutic methods frequently used in many countries.

Scalp acupuncture has been developed on the basis of the traditional medicine system of acupuncture. Its points are closely related to the meridians, classical acupuncture points and the theory of internal organs. Thus its nomenclature should reflect the theory and characteristics of meridians and acupuncture points.

This nomenclature is formulated on the principle of selecting points on the meridians decided by the locations in various regions of the head in combination with the classical method of through-needling (needling from one point to reach another point or more points).

Like the classical points, the nomenclature of scalp acupuncture consists of three essential elements, namely, alphanumeric code, Chinese phonetic alphabet (Pinyin) names and Han characters. The corresponding English equivalent is also given.

The alphabetic code name of scalp acupuncture is MS, this code name being derived from the terms "micro-system" and "scalp points".

This nomenclature was adopted at the meeting in Tokyo in 1984 after a lengthy discussion.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF SCALP ACUPUNCTURE

- MS1 Ezhongxian 額(額)中線(线)
Middle Line of Forehead
1 cun long from GV24 Shenting 神(神)庭 straight down
along the meridian.
- MS2 Epangxian I 額(額)旁1線(线)
Lateral Line 1 of Forehead
1 cun long from B3 Meichong 眉衝(冲) straight down
along the meridian.
- MS3 Epangxian II 額(額)旁2線(线)
Lateral Line 2 of Forehead
1 cun long from G15 Toulinqi 頭(头)臨(临)泣 straight down
along the meridian.
- MS4 Epangxian III 額(額)旁3線(线)
Lateral Line 3 of Forehead
1 cun long from the point 0.75 cun medial to S8 Touwei
頭(头)維(维) straight down.
- MS5 Dingzhongxian 頂(顶)中線(线)
Middle Line of Vertex
From GV20 Beihui 百會(会) to GV21 Qinding 前頂(顶)
along the midline of head.
- MS6 Dingnie Qianxiexian 頂(顶)顛(顛)前斜線(线)
Anterior Oblique Line of Vertex-Temporal
From Qianshenchong 前神(神)衝(冲) (one of acupuncture points of
Ex-HN1 Sishencong 四神(神)聰(聰), 1 cun anterior to GV20 Baihui
百會(会)) obliquely to G6 Xuanli 懸(悬)釐(厘).
- MS7 Dingnie Houxiexian 頂(顶)顛(顛)後(后)斜線(线)
Posterior Oblique Line of Vertex-Temporal
From GV20 Baihui 百會(会) obliquely to G7 Qubin 曲鬢(鬢).

- MS8 Dingpangxian I 頂(顶)旁 1 線(线)
 Lateral Line 1 of Vertex
 1.5 cun lateral to Middle Line of Vertex, 1.5 cun long from B6
 Chengguang 承光 backward along the meridian.
- MS9 Dingpangxian II 頂(顶)旁 2 線(线)
 Lateral Line 2 of Vertex
 2.25 cun lateral to Middle Line of Vertex
 1.5 cun long from G17 Zhengying 正營(营, 营) backward along the
 meridian.
- MS10 Nieqianxian 顛(颠)前線(线)
 Anterior Temporal Line
 From G4 Hanyan 頷(颌)厭(厌) to G6 Xuanli 懸(悬)釐(厘).
- MS11 Niehouxian 顛(颠)後(后)線(线)
 Posterior Temporal Line
 From G8 Shuaigu 率谷 to G7 Qubin 曲鬢(鬓).
- MS12 Zhenshang Zhengzhongxian 枕上正中線(线)
 Upper-Middle Line of Occiput
 From GV18 Qiangjian 強間(间) to GV17 Naohu 腦(腦, 脑)戶.
- MS13 Zhenshang Pangxian 枕上旁線(线)
 Upper-Lateral Line of Occiput
 0.5 cun lateral and parallel to Upper-Middle Line of Occiput.
- MS14 Zhenxia Pangxian 枕下旁線(线)
 Lower-Lateral Line of Occiput
 2 cun long from B9 Yuzhen 玉枕 straight down.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES

At the meeting in Seoul in 1987, after a lively discussion, the standard nomenclature of filiform needles was adopted and the method of measurement was decided. The standard nomenclature of the "nine classical needles" and modern needles was also proposed as follows:

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF FILIFORM NEEDLES

handle	Zhenbing	鍼(針, 针)柄
root	Zhengen	鍼(針, 针)根
body	Zhenti	鍼(針, 针)體(体)
tip	Zhenjian	鍼(針, 针)尖(先)

The diameter is measured at the root and the length of the needle is measured from the root to the tip.

The unit of measurement is the millimetre.

**PROPOSED STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF THE
"NINE CLASSICAL NEEDLES"**

(1) Shear needle	chanzhen	鑷(鑷)鍼(針, 針)
(2) Round-point needle	yuanzhen	圓(圓, 員, 員)鍼(針, 針)
(3) Spoon needle	chizhen	鍤(鍤)鍼(針, 針)
(4) Lance needle	fengzhen	鋒(鋒)鍼(針, 針)
(5) Stiletto needle	pizhen	鉞(鉞)鍼(針, 針)
(6) Round-sharp needle	yuanlizhen	圓(圓, 員, 員)利鍼(針, 針)
(7) Filiform needle	haozhen	毫鍼(針, 針)
(8) Long needle	changzhen	長(長)鍼(針, 針)
(9) Big needle	dazhen	大鍼(針, 針)

**PROPOSED STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF
MODERN NEEDLES**

(1) Three-edged needle	sanlengzhen	三稜*, 稜* 鍼(針, 針)
(2) Ringheaded thumbtack needle	xianzhen	楸(楸)鍼(針, 針)
(3) Intradermal needle	pineizhen	皮內鍼(針, 針)
(4) Dermal needle	pifuzhen	皮膚(肤)鍼(針, 針)

*Both Chinese characters are interchangeable.

STANDARD NOMENCLATURE OF THE UNIT OF MEASUREMENT

At the Seoul meeting in 1987, the Working Group discussed the unit for location of meridians. It was reported that different units were in use. Some countries used the term "inch" or other equivalent units in English. However, most of the countries used the cun/Cun, or tsun/Tsun.

After a long discussion, it was decided to use the cun (non-italicized) as the standardized nomenclature for the unit.

It was also noted that there were two different ways of defining the cun. Therefore, it was also decided that the following standard nomenclature should be used in each measurement method:

B-cun	Gudu Fencun	骨度分寸	bone proportional cun
F-cun	Shouzhi Tongshencun	手指同身寸	finger cun

The Working Group also discussed standardization of the measurement of parts of the body using the cun.

Thirty-six parts of the body mentioned in Neijing (內經 : Canon of Medicine) were reviewed one by one. The following criteria were used:

- (1) Commonly used
- (2) Easy to measure
- (3) Clearly defined anatomically
- (4) Not controversial among the members

Some controversial parts were left for further investigation.

Standard measurements of six parts of the body were adopted as follows:

- (1) from the upper border of the Manibrium to the end of the body of the Sternum = 9 B-cun
- (2) from the end of the body of the Sternum to the Umbilicus = 8 B-cun
- (3) from the Umbilicus to the upper border of the Symphysis pubis = 5 B-cun
- (4) from the Medial Malleolus to the ground = 3 B-cun
- (5) from the great Trochantara to the knee joint = 19 B-cun
- (6) from the knee joint to the prominence of Lateral Malleolus = 16 B-cun