

29 October 1975

Dear Harold:

Since our conversation the other day I've been thinking about your question regarding acupuncture. As I said then, I've seen no reference to suggest its use for what ails you. However, it's general approach -- that of correcting imbalances within the body systems -- would seem to include it. From what I've read, the acupuncturist takes the view that in a balanced system of body functions, things will happen normally and the individual will be healthy. If the systems become unbalanced, with one or more elements overriding the effects of others, ill health results.

From this standpoint, your anti-coagulants are dealing with only one aspect of the imbalance which causes your trouble. They prevent new clots from forming. As you said, another aspect of the problem is to get rid of existing clots before they migrate and ~~do~~ do further damage. I suspect an acupuncturist would say that this signifies an imbalance centering on whatever it is that produces the factor that normally disposes of clots. What this might be, I have no idea. However, I have the impression that acupuncture and other aspects of Chinese medicine do anything but neglect problems concerning the blood. They've known about the circulation of the blood for more than 2,000 years, and actually distinguish 12 different kinds of pulse which they claim help in diagnosis of all sorts of ailments, including those of such seemingly unrelated organs as the liver and spleen. It seems unlikely that such an elaborate therapy, practiced for so long, has not dealt in some way with your type of illness, and I would not hesitate to investigate the possibilities, especially if you can find a practitioner who comes well recommended and who obviously isn't just a newcomer cashing in on a good thing. Perhaps Mr. Miao could advise you or make inquiries.

By the way, we haven't received the Washington Post since Oct. 1, as the mailers seem to have gone out with the pressmen. In any case, I can think of no story thus far on which we would seem to need the Post version, but you might keep us in mind if something terrific comes along. I gather the Post will make no attempt to supply missed copies to its subscribers, and I don't intend to request it.

We were delighted to hear you're doing so well, and hope you'll let nothing interfere with rapid recovery.

Best from us both,

  
jdw