

Editorial

Auricular Medicine

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The treatment by auricular therapy has a long history. Ear acupoint research has been advancing step by step worldwide [1-17]. The introduction of lasers into medicine brought besides the already existing stimulation with needles, electricity, pressure and liquids an additional technique to auricular acupuncture.

The RAC (Reflex Auriculo-Cardiac) represents an important scientific method in the field of auricular medicine. At the TCM Research Center of the Medical University of Graz, new methodological strategies for recording and objectifying the dynamic pulse changes were scientifically investigated and described. With high-resolution imaging of pulsatile surface changes, the RAC can be reproducibly quantified for the first time. One of the methods consists of a combination of an innovative microscope system of the Medical University of Graz, a video software analysis and special image processing programs of the Beijing University of Science and Technology. First test measurements document the realization of the new method approach (Figure 1 and 2).



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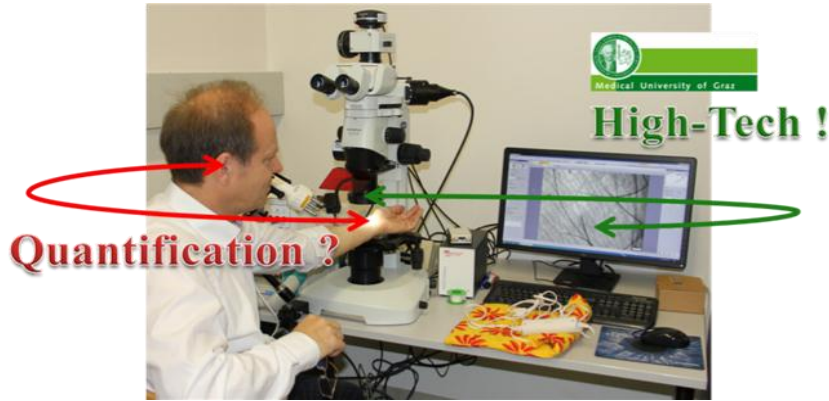


Figure 1 Quantification of the RAC (modified from [7]).

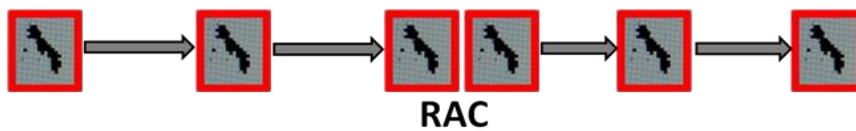


Figure 2 Proof of the dynamic changes in the laboratory using alterations at the surface (modified from [7]).

Sino-European transcontinental basic and clinical high-tech auricular acupuncture studies demonstrate the modernization of auricular acupuncture and the scientific way from auricular therapy to auricular medicine (Figure 3).

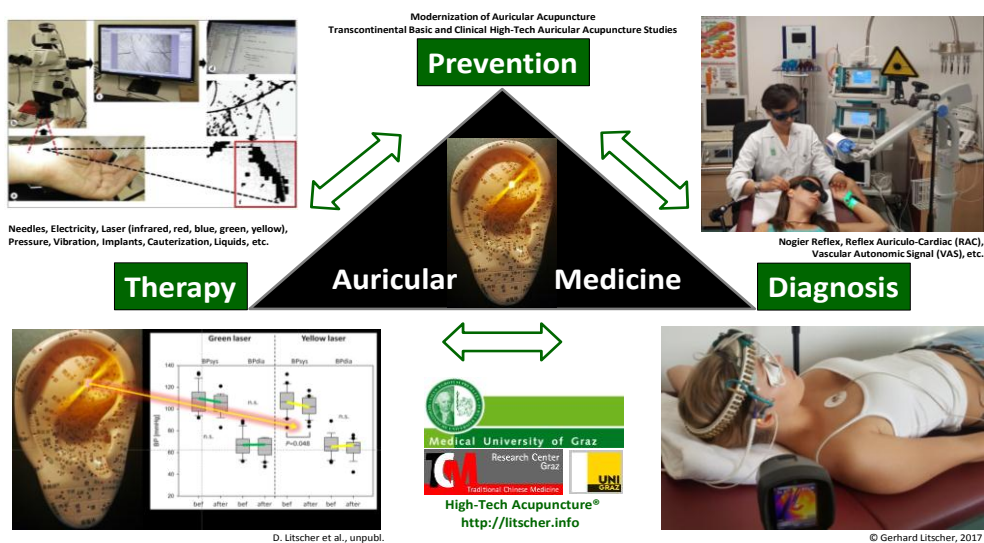


Figure 3 Modernization of auricular acupuncture and the scientific way from auricular therapy to auricular medicine

Auricular medicine has come of age and has gained the attention of the wider medical community in recent years.

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