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## Bleeding needle theory- a reverse diagnostic system in acupuncture clinical practice

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**Overview:** Bleeding Needle Theory has been used by Ahmed Edwards L.Ac. and M Farid Edwards MD in practice for over two decades. They have co-authored a manual in order to explain to others how the system works. Acupuncture has been around for over 5000 years and continues to evolve with the advent of technology. Our system, Bleeding Needle Theory, is an example of this evolution of Acupuncture. Practitioners spend thousands of dollars to purchase complicated point analysis equipment which is dependent on operator efficiency. The skill building curve often takes years and is still inconclusive and subject to opinion or Acupuncture training. Bleeding Needle Theory allows any proficient Acupuncture practitioner to determine whether their treatments are working for a given patient. The technique of reverse diagnostic analysis is very powerful in this regard. Watching for bleeding points offers the practitioner clues as to what the actual pathogenic factors, organ imbalances and areas of pain are regardless of what the patient reveals. It also elucidates how well and to what degree treatments are working and can often allow practitioners insight into courses of treatment and prognosis. The basic understanding of Bleeding Needle Theory is that when acupuncture points are being selected correctly, certain key points will bleed to alert the practitioner whether the approach is working or indicate how deep the problem is lodged in the patient's energy system. The amount, color, and type of bleeding is extremely important in this analysis as well. The technique works mostly with specific sets of acupuncture points which are described in the lecture and book. Adapting our system to your practice and instantly gaining deeper insight into complicated cases is simple. We would expect any practitioner to gain enough information in this session to begin utilizing our technique immediately on patients.

**Rational:** Bleeding Needle Theory is relevant to collaboration within the Integrative Health field and offers Acupuncture Clinical Practices a method to increase treatment effectiveness with limited time and resources. There is almost no historical literature related to its implementation as a diagnostic system and no cohesive known system guiding practitioners as to its interpretation, yet we have successfully developed and used the benefits of this system for 25 years. It is also a technique allowing practitioners to avoid purchasing and becoming reliant upon complicated and expensive point analysis equipment which is not scientifically proven or accepted by the Acupuncture field at large. Many Physicians have learned and received certification in acupuncture and Bleeding Needle Theory can offer them another perspective to increase proficiency in the modality of Acupuncture.

**Objective:** Participants will be able to take basic acupuncture skills and overlay these reverse diagnostic techniques to increase understanding of patient imbalance, injury and illness. Our system is clinically tested over 25 years of practice and can be easily learned by students and seasoned practitioners alike. It does not matter what school of acupuncture one subscribes to, any practitioner can implement this technique to get better results. We can do a brief overview in 15 minutes or a more detailed description in 60-90 minutes.

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