According to the medical interpretation of the I CHING, tumoral diseases are described by Hexagram 59 – HUAN (Dissolution), which consists of the two Trigrams K’an – Water (lower Trigram) and Sun – Wind (upper Trigram); the gloss by King Wên states: “Dissolution. The king approaches his temple. It furthers one to cross the great water. Perseverance furthers”.

Expanding, energy disperses and dissolves: dispersion means disorganization and disorder; only by regaining self control and returning to one’s deep self can indispensable order be recovered.

Hexagram 59 – HUAN corresponds to the acupoints of the Large Intestine channel between LI 14 (Binao) and LI 20 (Yingxiang), a segment that affects intestinal balance, acts on the nose, throat, ears, bronchi, diseases of the shoulders and nape, and the tendency to congestion, and also makes it possible to work without strain.\(^1\)

Currently, Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) and Veterinary Acupuncture (VA) is applied in oncology along two fronts: treatment of the tumoral disease and, more commonly, treatment of the tumor’s secondary complications. The latter area includes pain therapy, remission of symptoms and suppression of secondary effects, support for chemotherapy, and stimulating and increasing the organism’s immunocompetent functions.\(^2\)

These diseases were described in the classic texts, though obviously under generic terms such as ‘abscess’, ‘mass’ or ‘tumefaction’.

\(^1\) [Image 272x566 to 323x623]

\(^2\) [Image 240x191 to 355x364]
The *Ling Shu* clearly mentions tumors of the stomach and the cardia (Chapter 4) and of the uterus, which it calls *Shia Jia* (cap. 57). Throughout the Shang Dynasty (XII - VI century BC), cancerous pathologies were referred to as *Liu*.

In his *Zhenjiu Jiayi Jing*, *Huangfu Mi* deals with oncology in several sections, describing different types of tumor, their possible causes, and recommending approaches to treating them. He describes:

- *Ruai*, abscesses of the chest and nipples (carcinomas).
- Abdominal masses caused by changes in *Ren Mai*.
- *Piqi* disease, where pus and blood collects outside the stomach and intestine, and symptoms include weight loss, weakness and jaundice due to energy unbalances of the Spleen.
- *Fuliang* (*fu* = to prostrate oneself / *liang* = horizontal), a particular Cold neoplasia that according to *Wang Bing* is a tumor extending along the path of *Chong Mai*, while according to *Leijing* it is a tumor (swelling) that is as hard as stone.
- *Shi Jia*, pelvic tumors that form in the Uterus (one of the *Qi Heng Zhi Fu*), in which Cold attacks the cervix and blocks its channel. This prevents *Qi* circulation with a resulting accumulation of unhealthy blood. Symptoms mimic those of a pregnancy or an alteration in the menstrual cycle.
- *Chang Xun* (*chang* = intestine / *xun* = mushroom), or in other words, fleshy excrescences due to accumulation of Dampness (polyps).
- *Jinliu*, due to accumulation of *Xie Qi* in the tendons that initially causes a loss of flexibility. If this perverse energy persists, it leads to a tendon (or tendinomuscular) tumor.
- *Changju*, painful abscess of the intestine, a neoplasia due to the stagnation of perturbed energy in the interior for several years which evolves into a mass which is soft to palpation.
- *Xiliu*, or ‘antique tumor’, formed as a result of slow condensation of perverse energy giving rise to a mass which is hard to palpation.
- *Guju*, deep binding of the Breath which develops into a tumor.
- *Rouju*, a fleshy mass due to Cold which blocks Qi circulation in the Yang Ming level.

For treating pain, the same tract strongly recommends *Senecio palmatus*, a plant with astringent, carminative and tonic action.

According to *Huangfu Mi*, the most significant acupoint used in treating thoracic tumors is **ST 11** (*Qishe*): it dispels *Tan* (Catarrh – Dampness), relieves *Xue* stagnation, calms the breathing, frees the throat, and treats dyspnea, coughs, pleurisy and neck pain.
Though neoplastic pathologies are due to a variety of different causes, the common etiological factor is a clear internal cause: organic homeostasis is altered following psycho-physiological unbalances.\(^{(4)}\)

Current views regarding the pathogenesis of different types of tumor are as follows:

- **Qing Zhi Suo Shang**: emotional stresses block the Liver, which in turn affects Qi circulation. This condition can be accompanied by an excessive mental overload or by Dampness which affect the Spleen and Stomach: the energy movements of these two organs (the Spleen pushes the pure upwards; the Stomach pushes the impure downwards) are altered, contributing to blocking Qi.

- **Zang Fu Gong Neng Shi Tiao**: as a result of a Zang / Fu (Parenchymal Organs / Hollow Organs) dysfunction, a condition of Emptiness or a true organ lesion is generated, accompanied by Heat stagnation. Toxic Heat weakens the *Zheng Qi* which is thus unable to impede Xie Qi; this leads to a Vital Energy Emptiness, and an accumulation of perverse Yin.

- **Yin Shi Bi Jie**: In this case, diet is involved: dietary habits, hygiene, quantity, quality, irregularities and excesses. Poor nutrition damages the Spleen and Stomach, which lose their ability to transform and transport food energy, with a resulting accumulation of Dampness – Heat (these tumoral forms are traditionally described as “masses accompanied by sputum”).

- **Xie Du**: (or *Yin Du* – Toxic Yin or Perturbation), which is a further development of the disease, when it reaches the last stage and takes the form of abscesses and ulcerations.\(^{(5)}\)

In the genesis of tumors, there can be no doubt that there is a change in the production and circulation of *Wei Qi*, which is aggravated following the emission of catabolic products (Xie Qi), and the unbalance created in the Lower Burner (the site of Wei Qi production).\(^{(6)}\)
Neoplasias first appear as diathesis, a morbid condition midway between health and manifest disease, a general condition of organic dysfunction and ‘dys – regulation’ of the physiological functions.

If the organism is not able to react to this situation, or if appropriate, early action is not taken to treat this stage, the morbid condition which now involves only a functional change, clearly perceptible when taking the pulse, evolves towards stabilization and towards a characteristic organic lesion. (7)

According to the principles of Chinese functional medicine, neoplastic diathesis involves Water Movement (KI – BL), with serious degeneration of the tissues, which is then expressed as an unbalance of the Jue Yin energy level.

The Water Movement manages the Adrenaline – Cortisol component. (8)

According to Hans Selye, these substances, which are involved in the genesis of stress, are active during the stages of the so-called General Adaptation Syndrome:

- Alarm stage: the levels of catecholamines – and of adrenalin in particular – in the blood increase, and the sympathetic nervous system is stimulated, with a significant increase in reactivity, but a drop in resistance (heterostasis).
- Resistance stage: an increase in corticosteroids (Cortisol and Cortisone) induces a return to the organic system’s normal levels of function; also in this stage, but secondarily, the CRF elicits a discharge of ACTH from the adenohypophysis and a further production of corticosteroids (syntoxic substances).
- Exhaustion stage: states of chronic stress induce a permanent unbalance in the hypothalamus – hypophysis – suprarenal gland axis, reducing the ability to manage and control organic systems. (9)

These three stages coincide with the genesis of stress according to TCVM, where there is an initial unbalance of the Water Movement which then manifests itself as depression of the Yang root of the Kidney, and finally as a deficiency of the Yin root of the Kidney.

The involvement of the Spleen, the organ which is traditionally considered to be responsible for ‘keeping the body in shape’, determines the location of the neoplasia: as So Wen states: “If the Spleen is delicate, one will be afflicted by degenerative diseases”.

The clinical evidence collected by Thoresen since 1984 encouraged this author to investigate the mechanisms that regulate the Five Movements, and to apply the functions of the Ko Cycle in practical cancer treatment.

Depending on the site of the tumor, the acupoint on the Yin channel that brings control to the affected organ is stimulated (for example, the acupoint of the Spleen channel for bladder cancer, the acupoint of the Liver channel for stomach cancer, the acupoint of the Heart channel for lung cancer, etc.).

This treatment appears to be very effective in reducing the growth of tumors, which in some cases disappear completely. The author’s case-notes indicate that this type of treatment is very active for malignant tumors. (10)
Classic authors propose specific treatments with Moxibustion for different forms of cancer:

- Malignant tumors of the uterus and myomas: **CV 3 (Zhongji)**, **BL 23 (Shenshu)**, **ST 36 (Zusanli)**;
- Stomach tumors: **CV 17 (Shanzhong)**, **CV 13 (Shangwan)**, **CV 12 (Zhongwan)**, **BL 15 (Xinshu)**, **BL 17 (Geshu)**, **BL 21 (Weishu)**, **PC 6 (Neiguan)**, **ST 36 (Zusanli)**;
- Intestinal tumors: **CV 12 (Zhongwan)**, **CV 8 (Shenque)**, **BL 25 (Dachangshu)**, **ST 25 (Tianshu)**, **ST 36 (Zusanli)**.

Zhao Xue Min developed a specific moxibustion technique that uses a moxa pole made from the following herbs:

Wu Gong (Scolopendra subspinipes), Ma Qian Zi (Semen Strychnotis), Wu Ling Zhi (Feces Trogopterori sue Pteromi), Xiong Huang (Realgar), Ru Xiang (Resina Olibani), Mo Yao (Resina Myrrhae), A Wei (Resina Ferulae asafoetida), San Leng (Rhizoma Sparganii), E Zhu (Rhizoma Curcumae zedoariae), Gan Cao (Radix Glycyrrhizae), Pi Xiao (slaked lime), Shan Yang Xue (goat blood), Liu Huang (sulphur), Chuan Shan Jia (Squama Manitis pentadactylis), Ya Zao (Fructus Gleditschiae chinensis), She Xiang (Secretio Moschi moschiferi), Gan Sui (Radix Euphorbiae kansui), and Ai Rong (Folium Artemisiae argyi).

Traditionally, the moxa pole is stored before use for 49 days in a porcelain container buried underground, and then applied to the skin. It is very effective in treating carcinomas. (11)

Support treatments for secondary effects are designed specifically to counter pain, difficulty in swallowing, lack of appetite or anorexia, vomiting, frequent urination, fatigue, dizziness, and leukopenia (effects that are often caused by chemotherapy), and are intended to reactivate and support Qi circulation, reinforce vital energy, resolve Xue stagnations and nourish the blood, calm the algic component, stimulate the immune functions and calm Shen.

Therapy also addresses the needs of chronic and ingravescent diseases. (12)

In support therapy, administering medicinal plants and complementary substances that can contain the effects of the neoplasia should also be considered. These include:

- Panax ginseng: its most active compounds, the ginsenoids (which belong to a family of steroids) increase physical performance, aerobic capacity (reducing lactate and heart rate), cell-mediated immune function, cerebral circulation, platelets, and the concentration of liver antioxidants. They also increase the efficacy of antibacterial drugs and improve brain functions.
- Mushrooms: specifically, Ganoderma lucidus.
- Bioflavonoids.
- Vitamins: A – C – D 3 – E.
- Selenium
- Copper.
- Amino acids: Glutathione – Arginine – Glutamine.
- Melatonin.
- Inositol hexaphosphate.
- Green tea.
- Mineral elements: gold – silver. (13)

Dietary guidance is also essential in ensuring appropriate quantities of high quality, high energy and low bulk foods. (14) (15)

When the body and its energy function correctly, mental health also benefits: only in this way can the individual live in a dimension of wellbeing in which calm and happiness reign. (16)
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