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Usage Patterns of Chinese Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture Among Patients Who Consult a Family Physician in Vancouver, B.C.

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Abstract

Patients may not be receiving treatment solely from practitioners of Western medicine. Alternative medicine was used by many patients. Chiropractic use was very common, whereas Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) such as herbalists and acupuncturists was used infrequently. On the other hand, there are indications that TCM use may be common among North American Chinese. However, this data was dated and difficult to interpret; with small sample sizes (87 to 339) and proportions based on different times. A comprehensive study was needed to better determine use of TCM, particularly among patients who also use Western medicine. Thus, the objective of this study was to determine the usage patterns of TCM among patients visiting Chinese family physicians in Vancouver, B.C. The results will be correlated with demographic characteristics.