



# JOURNAL

American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association

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of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association

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The AHVMA is an organization whose purpose is to function as a forum for the exploration of alternative and complementary areas of health care in veterinary medicine.

## Contents

<b>From the Editor</b> .....	3
<b>From the Executive Director</b> .....	5
<b>President's Message</b> .....	7
<b>Comparative Study on the Effectiveness of Aquapuncture and Intramuscular Injection of Fenprostalen, Dinoprost and Cloprostenol on Retention of the Corpus Luteum in Sows</b> <i>H Toriumi, DVM, Y Kuwahara, DVM, Y Ichikawa, DVM, K Shimizu, PhD, S Tsumagari, DVM, PhD, M Takeishi, DVM, PhD, and H Xie, DVM, PhD</i> .....	9
<b>Using Homeopathic First Aid in Treating Wildlife in a Field Setting</b> <i>Shirley J Casey and Allan M Casey</i> .....	15
<b>Using Natural Compounds to Treat Cancer in Dogs and Other Animals</b> <i>John Boik</i> .....	23
<b>Get The Point</b> <i>Bruce Ferguson, DVM, MS</i> .....	27
<b>Veterinary Aid for Cuba</b> <i>Marlene Smith-Schalkwijk, DVM</i> .....	33
<b>Book Review</b> <i>Natural Compounds in Cancer Therapy</i> .....	37
<b>The Elders Speak</b> <i>Christina Chambreau, DVM</i> .....	39
<b>Owner-Animal Relationships as They Affect the Practice of Holistic Medicine</b> <i>Myrna Milani, BS, DVM</i> .....	41
<b>Traditional Medicinal System In India With Special Reference To Ayurveda</b> <i>Thankam Mathew, PhD, Tripthi Mary Mathew, MD, MPH, Taji Susan Abraham, MPVM, Zachariah Mathew, PhD</i> .....	45
<b>Special Announcements:</b>	
<b>Annual Conference &amp; Banquet</b> .....	4
<b>New Student Liaison</b> .....	37
<b>Call for Papers</b> .....	52
<b>Grant Reviewers Needed</b> .....	52
<b>Meetings and Classifieds</b> .....	51
<b>Annual Conference Tape Order</b> .....	53
<b>Index of Advertisers</b> .....	54
<b>Resources</b> .....	55
<b>Referral Directory Application</b> .....	56

**Cover Photo:**

**Black-tailed Prairie Dog**

Courtesy of Susan Miller

The Wild Places, Inc, Boulder, Colorado

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### Instructions to authors—Journal of the AHVMA

The *Journal of the American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association* is published four times a year, in January, April, July, and October, and welcomes manuscripts dealing with any aspect of holistic, alternative, or complementary veterinary medicine. Typed manuscripts should be submitted double-spaced with one inch margins. Electronic submission of documents is preferred. Documents prepared in a word processor should be submitted as plain text or in Rich Text Format (RTF). Documents may be submitted on a 3½ diskette for PC, or as attachments to email. The latter is preferred.

Referenced works will be given priority. Works should be cited using the author/date format, and references should be double-spaced and listed in alphabetical order by first author's name. Products and equipment should be identified by chemical or generic names. Trade names should be included as a footnote, with the manufacturer's name and address.

The corresponding author should include a statement, in a cover letter, that the manuscript has been approved by all authors, and that it comprises original work not previously published elsewhere, unless so noted. The AHVMA reserves the right to reject any manuscript. For more information, contact the Editor-in-Chief at: [Editor@AHVMA.org](mailto:Editor@AHVMA.org)

# From the Editor

## This is Your Association

You've all heard me complain over and over about the lack of participation within the AHVMA, with regard to contributions for the Journal. But now I see that this lack of participation is not limited to the Journal. Both our Executive Director and our President are calling for member participation on committees and the Board of Directors, in their respective messages this month.

I will reiterate my plea for contributions to the Journal, and I will add to that a general plea for participation in all aspects of Association business. This organization cannot survive without member participation. It may be easy to sit back and do nothing in an organization as large as the AVMA, but in a smaller organization like the AHVMA, **everyone** has to participate. So get off your duffs and join in!

## AHVMA Web Site

As I reported in the last issue, the AHVMA web site is now a reality. I don't know how many of you have visited it, but I urge you all to do so. Again, we need participation in the form of input from members. You represent a broad spectrum of computers, operating systems, Internet connections, and web browsers. In order to test the site with as many systems as possible, we need everyone to visit and report problems.

I have not had any feedback, and none of the Editorial Board members have reported any comments. I do know that Theresa Mall in the AHVMA office received complaints from some members who were not able to access the site. The problem arose because some versions of Netscape were unable to display certain pages. Hannah has modified the coding, and we hope the problems have been resolved. However, we still need more testing and more feedback.

Don't just go to the home page [AHVMA.org] and call that a test. Be sure to visit all the pages and check everything. Be sure the directory is working okay, and while you're there, check your own listing to be sure it is correct. You will not be able to access the "Members Only" area until you receive a user ID and a password. We are working on a system to assign those. But don't worry, there is nothing in there to see yet.

We also need content for the site, yet another area for member participation. Basic content is needed for the public area of the site in the form of general health care

articles. It has been suggested that many of you have "client information sheets" that could be adapted for use on the site. If you have such information sheets and are willing to share them, please send them to the AHVMA office or to me, preferably in electronic format.

## Computer Virus Protection

If you have been listening to the news lately, you should be aware of all the new computer viruses that are floating around via the Internet. Some of these are really getting vicious. Some, such as *Code Red*, are not a concern unless you are running your own web server (not a web site, but a server). However, others, such as the *SirCam* worm are a real problem, and are currently wreaking havoc. Virus protection software is an **absolute must!** And you must keep your virus definitions current, which means updating them at least once a week.

The two top selling virus protection programs are Norton (by Symantec), and McAfee. There are others, as well, but these are the best known. If you don't have virus protection software, I urge you to get it now. And if you do have it, be sure it is a current version and that the definitions are up to date.

The other thing you should have is a firewall, especially if you have a cable or DSL connection to the Internet. One of the best personal firewall programs is ZoneAlarm, and you can get a free version from their web site [www.zonelabs.com/](http://www.zonelabs.com/).

I have a cable connection to the Internet, and I have ZoneAlarm installed as a firewall. Recently, I had more than 300 attacks on my computer in one day, which were blocked by the firewall. If you don't have a firewall, your computer is probably under attack every time you connect to the Internet.

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# Comparative Study on the Effectiveness of Aquapuncture and Intramuscular Injection of Fenprostalen, Dinoprost and Cloprostenol on Retention of the Corpus Luteum in Sows

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## Summary

Fenprostalen, a prostaglandin F2 alpha (PGF2 $\alpha$ ) analogue was injected into the acupuncture point Bai-Hui and its effect on corpus luteum (CL) regression was compared to conventional intramuscular injection in terms of estrus induction rate. The study showed that fenprostalen induced significantly higher estrus in sows as compared with dinoprost and cloprostenol. Further, Bai-Hui acupuncture point injection of fenprostalen showed significantly higher estrus induction rate in sows as compared with intramuscular injection (IM) at the lateral cervical muscle. These results indicated that injection of fenprostalen at the acupuncture point Bai-Hui is an effective therapeutic treatment for the sows with retention of CL.

## Introduction

At present, prostaglandin F2 alpha (PGF2 $\alpha$ ) is clinically used for induction of estrus and recurrence of estrus in horses and cows by regression of corpus luteum (CL). However, Hallford, *et al*<sup>5</sup> reported that the effect of PGF2 $\alpha$  on CL regression in horses and cows was not observed in sows due to the poor sensitivity to PGF2 $\alpha$ . The reason may be that blood progesterone values were several times higher in pigs than other livestock. Luteolysis by PGF2 $\alpha$  is difficult and has no merit in sows because of poor sensitivity to PGF2 $\alpha$ , and it acts only in anaphase after the 13th day of the luteal phase in sows. Until now, clinical application of PGF2 $\alpha$  in pigs is only for farrowing induction. However, Kawata *et al*<sup>7</sup> reported that a higher estrus induction rate was found using a single dose of the PGF2 $\alpha$  analogue, cloprostenol at 1 mg/head. Furthermore, a recent report suggested that fenprostalen (Synclosept), a long-acting PGF2 $\alpha$  analogue developed by Syntex, has 25 times higher CL regression effects as compared with natural PGF2 $\alpha$  in cows, and it has a

long half life of approximately 19 hours in sows. Therefore, it is possible that fenprostalen may be effective in CL retention in sows that are less sensitive to PGF2 $\alpha$ .

In the present study we used fenprostalen for treatment of anestrus sows with retained CL (RCL) and compared it to natural type PGF2 $\alpha$ , dinoprost, and PGF2 $\alpha$  analogue, cloprostenol. Furthermore, in order to enhance the clinical result, we also injected fenprostalen into the acupuncture point Bai-hui (aquapuncture). Bai-hui is a classical and effective acupuncture point for reproductive disorders in sows.<sup>9</sup> Its effectiveness was compared with conventional intramuscular injection of fenprostalen by measuring estrus induction rate.

## Materials and Methods

### Subjects and groups

Seven hundred and thirty-four breeding sows were used in this study. All sows were anestrus more than seven days after weaning. They were raised at several swine farms in Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan. Three or more corpora lutea of various sizes were recognized on the ovarian surface by rectal palpation and diagnosed as retention of corpus luteum (RCL). A total of 38 nulliparous sows were also used for this study. The sows did not show any obvious estrus signs even when they reached reproduction age. They were diagnosed as RCL by rectal palpation. The study was conducted between January 1992 and April 1997.

Nulliparous to multiparous sows of the Landrace (n=52), large Yorkshire (n=28), and Duroc (n=9) breeds, and F1 hybrids (large Yorkshire x Landrace: n=683) were used in the study (Table 1).

The sows selected were divided into two groups: (1) intramuscular injection group and (2) acupuncture point injection group. The first group was divided into three subgroups: fenprostalen,

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# Using Homeopathic First Aid in Treating Wildlife in a Field Setting

Shirley J Casey and Allan M Casey

## Introduction

While wildlife rehabilitators have seen the beneficial effects of treating acute trauma conditions in wildlife with homeopathy, most of the application has been in a controlled facility environment. This article describes some of the challenges of taking this modality into sometimes unpredictable and difficult field conditions, as well as describing the successful results achieved. Additionally, the article discusses some of the hurdles encountered when securing approvals from state and federal wildlife agencies prior to treating a species protected under the Endangered Species Act.

## An Overview of Wildlife Rehabilitation

Wildlife rehabilitation is the process of providing aid to injured, orphaned, displaced, or distressed native wild animals so that they may survive when released to their native habitats. Wildlife rehabilitation facilities may range from larger rehabilitation centers to facilities that use a dedicated portion of the wildlife rehabilitator's home and property. Wildlife rehabilitators offer a wide range of services, including consulting on human-wildlife conflicts, admitting wildlife for care, preparing species and age specific diets, feeding wildlife, preparing and cleaning cages, monitoring health, finding appropriate release sites, and so forth. Wildlife rehabilitators are required to hold state and, often, federal permits to be able to provide this temporary care to wild animals prior to release back to the wild.

A wide range of wildlife species with a variety of health problems are presented to wildlife rehabilitators. They may be admitted for a variety of reasons, such as injuries by pets, being hit by cars, being orphaned due to human causes (tree trimming, construction, vehicle collisions, shooting, etc), electrocution, poisoning, or unnecessary rescue (kidnapping). Common wildlife health problems include shock, dehydration, bruising, wounds, head trauma, neurological injury, and fractures.

The rehabilitator conducts an initial assessment to determine if the animal needs to be seen by a veterinarian or can be treated according to the veterinarian's previous instruction (heat, quiet, fluids, cleaning minor wounds). In some cases,

experienced rehabilitators will initiate more advanced treatments according to the veterinarian's direction, such as providing medication for head trauma, neurological symptoms, or pneumonia. In other cases, the wild animal will be transported to the veterinarian for more complete assessment (radiographs, blood work, etc) and treatment (removing a bullet, cleaning a deep wound, putting a pin in a fracture, etc). In many situations, the veterinarian and rehabilitator decide on the protocol and medications to be used. Care and treatment are provided in a controlled environment with a variety of resources and monitored daily until release.

## Increasing Use of Homeopathy in Wildlife Rehabilitation

In the last few years, there has been a rapidly growing interest in the use of holistic health care for wildlife. This has been demonstrated by a growing attendance at holistic programs offered at rehabilitation conferences and homeopathic seminars; articles in rehabilitation publications; purchase of holistic resources; arrangements with holistic veterinarians; and use of holistic modalities with wildlife. Homeopathy has been of particularly high interest due to its effectiveness with wildlife (success with a wide range of conditions, accelerated recovery, treating the whole animal); minimal, if any unwanted side effects; ease of administration; single dose; availability; and low cost.

Rehabilitators and veterinarians generally provide the health treatments, including homeopathy, at a rehabilitation facility or veterinary clinic. Although in some cases, the rehabilitator may initiate treatments (heat, Bach Rescue Remedy® for stress, homeopathic Aconite for severe fear, etc) prior to transport after accepting the animal from the rescuer.

While the use of homeopathy in a facility setting has shown repeated and successful results in the several years, there have been some interesting applications of homeopathy with wildlife outside of facilities. These applications, outside the normal controlled conditions of a facility, have provided some special challenges. The following describes just a few of these cases.

# Using Natural Compounds to Treat Cancer in Dogs and Other Animals

John Boik

A variety of chemotherapy and radiotherapy regimens have been tested in dogs, cats, and other animals with varying but generally limited degrees of success. In humans and animals alike, highly effective treatments having few adverse effects are still lacking for most cancers. In response, interest is growing in the use of herbs and vitamins. It is estimated that up to 60 percent of all human cancer patients use herbs and/or vitamins at some time during their cancer treatment.<sup>1</sup> Although the percentage of owners using alternative medicine as part of their pets' anticancer treatment is not available, it can be assumed to be similarly high.

The burgeoning interest in natural substances should not be surprising; several important anticancer drugs in fact derive from natural

compounds. For example, Taxol, a drug obtained from the Pacific yew tree, and vincristine, from the periwinkle plant, are in common use. Unfortunately, these drugs can also produce severe adverse effects. A growing body of evidence, however, suggests that milder-acting natural compounds can also have an effect on cancer. Dozens of natural compounds have been identified that have a history of safe use as food or in herbal medicine and also have antitumor effects.<sup>2</sup> Some compounds showing promise in cancer treatment are listed in Table 1.

A recent cover story in *Time* magazine noted that during the last two decades, researchers have identified several qualities unique to cancer cells and have started work on a new generation of drugs that target them.<sup>3</sup> Unlike current chemotherapy drugs,

**Table 1. Natural Compound Examples and Their Actions**

Compound	Brief Description
<b>Apigenin</b>	This flavonoid found in parsley and other plants inhibits signal transduction in cancer cells. Signal transduction is the propagated movement of a chemical signal from the cell's outer membrane to its nucleus. The signal is often initiated by a growth factor reaching a receptor. Signal transduction plays a vital role in cancer cell proliferation.
<b><i>Astragalus membranaceus</i></b>	<i>Astragalus</i> is an herb used in Chinese herbal medicine as an immunostimulant and tonic. It contains high-molecular-weight polysaccharides that stimulate immune cells.
<b>Boswellic acid</b>	This triterpenoid found in frankincense reduces inflammation. Through various means, inflammation assists cancer cells survival.
<b>Curcumin</b>	Curcumin, found in the spice turmeric, inhibits signal transduction in cancer cells and reduces inflammation.
<b>EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid)</b>	This omega-3 fatty acid found in fish oil alters the plasma membrane of cancer cells, resulting in increased drug uptake. EPA also reduces inflammation.
<b>Genistein</b>	Genistein is an isoflavonoid found in soybeans that affects several events in cancer progression. For example, it reduces signal transduction and inhibits angiogenesis.
<b>Ginseng</b>	Ginseng is saponin-rich herb with immunostimulating properties. It is used as a tonic in Chinese herbal medicine.
<b>Melatonin</b>	This hormone is used to induce sleep. It can inhibit some types of cancer cells directly, and also has antioxidant effects and assists immune function.
<b>PSP (polysaccharide)</b>	PSP is an active compound in the mushroom <i>Coriolus versicolor</i> . Like <i>Astragalus</i> it contains high-molecular-weight polysaccharides that stimulate immune cells.

## Veterinary Aid For Cuba

Marlene Smith-Schalkwijk, DVM

Dr Naomi Bierman and Dr Eric Hartman organized a group of veterinarians from the US, Canada and Brazil to fly to Cuba and teach Veterinary Acupuncture to Cuban veterinarians in April, June and November 2001. Donating most of their expenses, their time, expertise, western drugs, acupuncture needles and other supplies, made this truly an exchange and foreign aid.

All veterinarians in Cuba, whether in private practice or involved in research, are paid the same wages of about \$20.00 per month. This does not leave any spare cash to pay for an Acupuncture course. The US trade embargo has led to a shortage of medicines and equipment for humans and animals.

Anesthetics, analgesics, and antibiotics are in short supply, leaving many animals without modern veterinary treatment opportunities. Horses are still the main mode of transportation in rural areas, and bulls or oxen are used to plough the land or carry loads.

Pets are highly valued and are seen as a part of the human health care system. When people's pets are healthy it makes the people happy, and happy people don't get sick as often as unhappy or stressed people. Veterinary care is free, as is health care.

Cats are often seen as "workers" to hunt mice and often are not fed and left to fend for themselves. There are, of course, many beloved pet cats that are well looked after.

Since the availability of drugs is so limited in the veterinary community, other modalities such as homeopathy, herbal medicine, and acupuncture are generally accepted in the healthcare system for humans and pets.

We visited a human hospital where medicine was truly integrated. Diseases such as glaucoma, congestive heart failure, asthma, allergies, and many other chronic diseases were treated with a combination of western medicine, homeopathy, acupuncture, herbs, diet, physiotherapy, massage, and music or hydrotherapy where indicated.

All practitioners would conference together and design individualized programs, a far cry from what happens here in North America. They have remarkable success rates and save millions of dollars in the health care system. Cuba has only a six percent infant mortality rate and extended life expectancy.

Visiting the main Veterinary Teaching Hospital at the University in Havana was an eye opener. Not having seen abdominal surgery done under only ketamine and valium for many years made me want to step in and monitor blood pressure and intubate the animal.



Dr Kerry Ridgway demonstrating at the wet lab at the zoo

Until recently, when Naomi Bierman donated an autoclave, instruments were still sterilized in a pressure cooker! The waiting room was outside and people brought their animals on the backs of bicycles and motor bikes. Most animals are vaccinated, but death due to distemper meningitis or parvo is not uncommon.

When we were shown the pharmacy I was surprised and impressed to see it filled with homeopathic remedies. The vet school makes its own remedies and dilutions.

There were 35 Cuban veterinarians, 15 American vets, one vet from Austria, and one from

# Owner-Animal Relationships as They Affect the Practice of Holistic Medicine

Myrna Milani, BS, DVM

For many involved in both conventional and complementary practices, owners serve four primary functions:

1. Supply transportation for the animal
2. Implement any requests made by the veterinarian
3. Pay the bill
4. Assume blame for “noncompliance” when treatment fails

As with the animal’s behavior, its relationship to the owners hardly warrants mention in a most veterinary texts. Although a trip to a few animal shelters or even discussions with clients in the waiting room would prove otherwise, the writers of these texts (and the treatment processes they recommend) assume that all owners and animals experience optimal relationships that would lead all owners to a) want to pursue any treatments recommended by the veterinarian and b) successfully implement these if they did.

Of course, anyone who has been in practice a matter of weeks realizes that, rather than hardly warranting mentioning, the relationship stands smack in the middle of the healing process: a solid owner-animal relationship can make veterinary practice a joy under the worst of circumstances and a poor relationship can yield a nightmare under conditions those owner-deleting textbooks would describe as the best.

Unfortunately, when we experience the negative effects of a less-than-optimal relationship first-hand, a tendency exists to dismiss the owner as a nut-case and give little thought to what these relationships might actually mean in terms of animal health. Instead we muddle through, perhaps even secretly hoping that the client will move away or the animal will die so we needn’t put up with them any more. This strikes those who experience such thoughts as sufficiently callous that they often also experience guilt, another negative emotion that further increases the toll these problematic owner-animal relationships take on the practitioner as well as the practice of quality medicine. However, the fact that veterinary education fails to provide veterinarians with the knowledge and skill to properly address the many effects of the relationship may make this appear to be our only option.

Be that as it may, any definition of a holistic veterinary practice must include the owner-animal bond simply because that relationship affects the animal’s physiology in and of itself. Just as animals affect human heart and pulse rate, triglycerides, cholesterol, and other parameters, studies going all the way back to Pavlov suggest humans exert the same effect on animals. The more intimate the relationship, the greater the physiological effect. And although the majority of the bond data present such effects as overwhelmingly positive, some relationships may also create pathology for animal and/or human. Consequently, even though a lack of time and/or skill may preclude practitioners addressing relationship problems in the course of any medical treatment, the effects of the relationship do warrant notice.

## A Sampling of Problematic Owner-Animal Relationships

Many problematic human-animal relationships result from dependencies experienced by one or both participants. Admittedly, the idea of pathological human-animal dependencies may initially seem bizarre, but it flows logically from the process of domestication. The goal of domestication is to make animals dependent on us so that we can then use them to fulfill our needs. Concurrently, we humans rank as the most domesticated species, so it comes as no surprise what we’re programmed for a certain amount of dependency ourselves. However, whereas we traditionally view domestication as a process whereby we gained physical benefits from animals (milk, eggs, help with hunting or herding), we know that the human species gains great mental benefits from interactions with animals, too. Moreover, we also know that the more complex life with other humans becomes and the less we can intimately interact with the natural world, the more people may depend on any companion animals to meet certain emotional needs. The net result of all this is that humans and animals may become highly dependent on each other emotionally as well as physically—the greater the need, the greater the potential for problems.

Further complicating matters, our society and sometimes even our profession has a way of elevating some of the worst relationships. No one claiming

# Traditional Medicinal System In India With Special Reference To Ayurveda

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## Abstract

The history of Ayurvedic medicine in India dates back to approximately 2000 BC. It is still practiced in this modern age in India and is also becoming popular in western countries including the UK, USA, and others. In India, there are about 250,000 registered Ayurveda practitioners (*Vaidhians*), and Ayurvedic medicine was written and practiced many centuries before the Christian era. Later the practice of Ayurveda and herbal medicine treatment were spread to the neighboring countries of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tibet, Mongolia, Russia, China, Korea, Japan, Egypt, Greece, and Rome. The ancient Ayurvedic medicine is now spreading to the USA, UK, Germany, etc, under a new term called Alternative Medicine. The patients in the Ayurvedic system of treatment are classified on the basis of *tridosha* (three pathogenic conditions), namely *Vayu* or *Vata*, *Pitta* and *Kapha*. Diagnosis of disease in Ayurvedic medicine is first accomplished by visual observations, studying the patient's health, character, temperament and appearance. The second step is history taking. The third step is pulse palpation, and finally urine examination is done. Ayurvedic treatment is divided into two categories: prevention and treatment. In India, many pharmaceutical companies manufacturing only Ayurvedic medicines have flourished during the last three decades. Some of the major ones are Himalaya Drug Company, Indian Herbs, and the Dabur Company. Besides human Ayurvedic medicines, these companies also manufacture Ayurvedic veterinary formulations for use in livestock and poultry. Due to the easy-to-use products and good packaging, many of the Ayurvedic products are exported to many countries. There are some companies like Kottakal Arya Vaidya Sala, in Kerala, India that prepare decoctions called *kashayams*, and Ayurvedic hair oil and body oil called *thailam*. Different *thailams* are used for massage of various ailments in humans and animals. Names of the few medicines along with their uses and the companies preparing them are listed in the paper.

## Introduction

In India and other countries, besides the practice of the modern (Western) allopathic system of medicine, there are other traditional systems of medicine that are being practiced. In India, these are Ayurveda, Unani and the Siddha system. Nowadays Ayurveda is actively practiced in India. At present there are about 250,000 registered Ayurveda doctors called *vaidhians*. There are 28,000 Unani *vaidhians* and 12,000 *vaidhians* practicing the Siddha system of medicine in India. Ayurveda is also practiced in many of the allopathic hospitals as a separate branch of medicine.

## History of Ayurveda

Ayurveda is one of the major ancient medical sciences in India, and it is the root of nearly all-traditional and modern systems of medicine in the world. The wealth of the literature of Ayurvedic medicine is in Sanskrit, a scholastic and Vedic language of India. The alphabet of Sanskrit was originally derived from splitting of the sound

produced by beating on the drum with different fingers and palm. Ayurveda literally means "science of life." It is an ancient and traditional holistic healing system. As a holistic system, Ayurveda includes not only the treatment of diseases but also the development and maintenance of health and well being of humans and animals. It is a detailed and complete system that emphasizes living in harmony with the laws of the ecosystem and nature.

The actual practice of Ayurveda includes the use of herbal and animal products as supplementary diets, massage, exercise, and meditation in an attempt to create a healthy life. According to Ayurveda, health is the result of a harmonious integration of an individual's constitution with nature and the universe. Many herbs that are indigenous to India are termed Ayurvedic herbs.

The term "Ayurvedic" has come to have a second meaning namely "from India." Many of the Ayurvedic herbs are unique and are found only in the ecosystem of India. As stated by Silver (1998), Ayurvedic herbs have a long and ancient history of use. Their effects and side effects have been studied

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