

NCCAOM Examination Nomenclature Cross-Reference

There are differences in the English language literature regarding pulses and other terminology in Oriental medicine. A cross-reference of terms that are frequently used in English language literature is provided below to assist you; however, this list is not intended to be all-inclusive. It is also provided in the form of a glossary in the English language version of Foundations of Oriental Medicine, Acupuncture, Chinese Herbology, and Asian Bodywork Therapy modules/examinations.

1. Theory

Zi Wu Liu Zhu = Horary Cycle = 24 hour circulation of energy through the channels = midday/midnight cycle = organ clock

2. Physiology

Qi = Chi = Ki = (vital) energy

Shen = spirit

Xue = blood

Jin Ye = Ching Ye = body fluids

Zang/Fu = the organs = Yin and Yang organs = Organs and Bowels = Viscera = Officials

Zang = viscera = Yin organs

Fu = bowels = Yang organs

Sanjiao = Three Heaters = Tri-Heater = Triple Burner = Triple Burning

Space = Triple Energizer = Triple Heater = Triple Warmer = Triple Warmer Space

3. Pathology and Diagnosis

Xu = deficient (deficiency) = empty (emptiness) = asthenia

Shi = Shih = excess = full (fullness) = Sthenia

Bu = Supplement = Tonify

Disperse = Reduce = Sedate = Xie

4. Five Element Theory

Five Elements = Five Phases = Wu Xing

Sheng Cycle = Internally generated = Endogenous = Disorder stemming from internal factors
Inter-promoting cycle = Generation cycle

Ko Cycle = Excessive action on the interacting (Ke) Cycle = Wu Cycle = Counteracting = Insult cycle = Backward on the Ko cycle = Counteracting cycle

5. Pathogenic Factors

Nei Yin = Endogenous = internal factors = internally generated = disorder stemming from internal factors

Wai Yin = Exogenous = external factors = Disorder stemming from external factors = Externally generated

Wai Xie = External pathogenic factor (or influence) = EPF = EPI = outside evil = Pernicious influence = Perverse energy

6. Tongue

She Tai = Tongue fur = moss = coating

She Ti = Tongue proper = tongue body = tongue material or tissue

She Pang Da = Flabby tongue = swollen = enlarged tongue = fat

7. Pulse Locations

Cun (tsun) = inch = distal location

Guan (Kuan) = gate/bar = middle location

Chi (chih) = cubit or foot = proximal location

8. Types of Qi

Defensive Qi = Protective energy = Wei Qi

Nutritive Qi = Nourishing Energy = Ying Qi

Original Qi = Prenatal Qi = Yuan Qi

Pectoral Qi = Zhong Qi

Prenatal Qi = Original Qi = Yuan

9. Channels and Points

Channels = Meridians = Jing = usually Primary channels = Main (Principal, Regular) meridians = Mai = Mo ((for instance: Yinweimo = Yinweimai; Du Mo = DuMai)

Muscle channels = tendino-muscular meridians = Jing

Jin Divergent meridians = distinct channels = Jing Pieh

Luo = connecting channels = Collaterals

Extra channels = Miscellaneous (Odd, Curious, Extraordinary, Ancestral) meridians or vessels = Eight extraordinary

Chong Mai = Chong meridian = Penetrating meridian

Conception Vessel = Ren meridian = Ren Mo

Du meridian = Du Mai = Du Mo = Governing Vessel

Dai Mai = Dai meridian = Belt meridian

Yang Qiao meridian = Yang Heel meridian

Yin Qiao meridian = Yin Heel meridian

Yin Wei meridian = Yin Linking meridian

Yang Wei meridian = Yang Linking Meridian

Cun = tsun = inch = A.C.I.

Yuan point = source point

Luo point = connecting or Junction point = Lo point

Xi point = Cleft or Accumulating point

5 Shu points = 5 Transporting, “Antique” or “Command” points

Primary channels = Five Element Points:

Back-Shu points = Associated or Associated Effect points = A.E.P. =
yu point = shu point

Coalescent points = points of intersection between two or more
channels = Crossing or Intersection points

Confluent points = Master (and coupled) or Key or Opening
points of the Eight Extra Channels

Front-Mu = Mo = Alarm point = Bo

Influential points = Eight Meeting (or Assembling) points of Energy,
Blood and certain organs and tissues

Reducing point = (son point) = sedation, dispersing or draining point

Reinforcing point = (mother point) = tonification point

Remote points = distal points

River = Jing = King = Ching = Traversing Sea = He = Ho = Uniting

Spring = Ying = Yuong or Rong = Gushing Stream = Shu or Yu = Transporting

Well = Jing = Ting