REFLEXOLOGY

A COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY

Increase Circulation - Decrease Pain

BRANCH REFLEXOLOGY INSTITUTE
‘A Training Unlike Any Other’

Created for The 2011 Conference on PAIN
Objectives

- Discover the Science of reflexology
- Outline the benefits of Reflexology
Reflexology Defined

- **DEFINITION:**
  - Reflexology is a science based on the principles that there are reflexes in the feet and hands that correspond to all organs, glands, and parts of the body. It’s goal is to encourage the release of blockages/congestion in and around the 7,000 nerve endings in the feet and hands while stimulating circulation and improving nerve and blood supply throughout the entire energy system.
Ten Vertical Zones

- There are **10** vertical zones.
  - Five on each side of your body.
  - Your left hand/foot represents the left-side.
  - Your right foot/hand, the right side.
  - The only time this switches--Brain.

The same nerve pathway runs a vertical line from your thumb (zone 1) to your great toe (zone 1). The center of your body, where the spine resides, is zone 1.
History and Background of Reflexology

- Egypt/Asia/China
- 1913 Dr. William Fitzgerald, MD
- 1930’s Eunice Ingham, trained the layperson
- 1970’s Dwight Byers, the nephew of Eunice Ingham, continued her training to present.
- Currently, more training institutes are stepping up to the call for more professional training availability from practitioners in the field who can speak from their own years of practice.
History and Background (continued)

- Early beginnings
- Rediscovery in the United States
- Transition in medical use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Translation of hieroglyphics:</th>
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<td>“Please don’t hurt me”, and the practitioner replies,</td>
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<tr>
<td>“I shall act so you praise me”.</td>
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What Reflexology Does ~

- Increases circulation
- Improves nerve and blood supply
- Releases stress and tension
- Helps restore balance within the energy system.

All ages.....

Reflexology
My Youngest Client
Special Considerations For Application

- Blood clots ~ Varicose veins
- Open wounds
- Broken bones/Sprains
- Athlete’s Foot/Warts
- Pregnancy-1st trimester
- Transplant patients
Why The Feet and Hands?

- The FEET and HANDS are furthest from our heart; the end points of our energy.
- 7,000 nerve endings in the feet alone
- Our HANDS hold and carry joy
- Our FEET ground us to the earth
The Referral Areas

- PRIMARY AREAS
- Foot and Hand
- Knee and Elbow
- Hip and Shoulder
Reflexology Techniques

- Standard Hold
- Basic Hold
- Thumb crawl (pictured)
- Finger Crawl
- Hook-In, Roll-In
- Ergonomic Holds and Body Posture for Practitioners
Pin-Point Reflexes

- Pin-Point Reflexes. This means that the specific area or spot will be more tender than the surrounding area.
  - Pituitary (regulates fevers)
  - Ileocecal valve (controls mucous flow)
  - Sigmoid (holding tank for stool)
  - Ovary/Testes (hot flashes)
  - Uterus/Prostate (fibroids or swollen prostate)
Guidelines of the Foot

- There are four (4) guidelines that indicate where reflexes will be located.
  - Diaphragm line
  - Waistline
  - Heel line
  - Tendon line

Adrenal gland reflex located medial of tendon line -- kidney reflex located lateral of tendon line.
Training Systems and Charts

Training Institutes

- The International Institute of Reflexology
- Mildred Carter - Foot/Hand Reflexology
- Laura Norman - Foot Reflexology
- Branch Reflexology Institute - Foot & Hand Charts

Note: Charts may vary but it’s always nice to have several as reference. The main organ reflexes are generally similar.
Michigan State University acquired $3.1 million (2005)

The largest federally funded grant ever for Reflexology from The National Institutes of Health (NIH), to study the effects of Reflexology on:

- Women with breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy.
- MSU partnered with Branch Reflexology Institute
  - Barbara Brower, wrote the protocols for this study as a result of many years of work with Dr. Gwen Wyatt and then the experience with reflexology and her broken leg.
Congestion/Energy Block

- Congestion viewed as an energy block.
- The many ways congestion shows itself.
- What congestion feels like to a client/patient.
- Pressure used is never to go beyond a ‘good hurt’.

Calluses  Corns  Bunions  Knots
Grains of sand  Cracks in heels  Hammer toes
Reflex Areas To Explore

- 6 Common Areas of Stress/Congestion
  - Spine
  - Neck
  - Shoulders/Hips
  - Adrenal
  - Stomach
  - Kidney
TODAY WE EXPLORE
Hand Reflexology - The Technique

- HAND REFLEXOLOGY
- The Basic Technique used in Reflexology
- Practice on self
- Practice on partner
Reflex Areas To Explore (continued)

- Headaches
- Choking
- Paper Cuts and Blisters
- Muscles of the Back (tight)
- Sinus Reflexes
- Hip/Knee/Leg Reflex
- Lymphatic Reflex
- Adrenal Reflex
Patient Experience

- AFTER A FULL SESSION (50 minutes)
- Client experiences internal calmness.
- Face may appear flushed.
- Feeling as if there is more padding on the bottom of the feet.
- Urine may appear darker in color, cloudy or strong in odor immediately following session.
- Please drink water after sessions
- continued
The Client/Patient Experience (continued)

““The Body Talks©” Training, exclusive of the Branch Reflexology Institute, incorporates and speaks to each of the following when looking at congestion:

- **Physical** - congestion
- **Emotional** - unexpressed emotions housed in an organ, gland or part of the body.
- **Mental** - thoughts that could contribute to congestion.

Learning to speak in a nurturing and supportive way is Branch. ‘A Training Unlike Any Other’
Reflexology Protocol
For a Treatment/Session

- **HAND REFLEXOLOGY**
  - Positive attitude
  - Nails trimmed (thumb, index, middle finger)
  - Warm hands
  - Small amount of lotion
  - Begin with ‘Get Acquainted’ technique
  - Spine Reflex - Is always the first reflex worked
    - Why? Because the Spine is the Central Nervous System and when you are doing the spinal reflex you are benefiting many other areas.
Left - Foot and Hand
Right - Foot and Hand

RIGHT HAND

RIGHT FOOT
Practicing Hand Reflexology

RIGHT HAND

LEFT HAND
Locating the Reflexes

- Choking - Base of Index Finger
- Sinus Reflexes - Finger Tips/Toes
- Headaches - Webbing and Thumb
- Muscles of the Back (tight)
- Hip/Knee/Leg Reflex -
- Lymphatic Reflex - Wrist
- Paper Cuts and Blisters - Referral Area (slide 3)
Locating the Reflexes

- Choking
- Sinus

Choking  
(base of index finger)

Sinus Reflex  
(all the tips of the fingers; and the ileo cecal valve reflex)
Dorsal View

* Hip/Knee/Leg

* Headaches
  Muscles of the Back

* Lymphatic

Headache Reflex and
Muscles of the Back

Lymphatic Reflex
(referral: ankle)
Referral Areas

- Paper cuts
- Kitchen Knife
- Oven Burns
- Blisters
- Bruises
- Slivers
- Sprains
- Broken Toes
- Foot Surgeries

Zone Therapy
Reflexology Because It Works!

- Reflexology will never hurt anyone.
- Always work within the ‘good hurt’
- Have fun exploring the benefits of Reflexology!
- People will always remember how good you made them feel. Touch - the great healer