

# ACUPUNCTURE CENTER OF ANDOVER

## INFORMED CONSENT

1. Acupuncture needles are sterile, disposable needles which when inserted into the skin are usually painless. The are however, not without a sensation traditionally referred to as, "Chi." The "Chi" sensation may feel heavy, achy, numbing, electrical, pulsing, or just beyond description. Occasionally, the needle might create a pinch and even produce a drop of blood when removed. There may even be a small bump which develops after the needle's removal. This is rather rare but can occur. It is merely a small bruise which will resolve itself.
2. Oriental medical therapy also consists of the use of heat supplied by the burning of the herb "Artemesia Vulgaris." The procedure is known as "moxibustion." Moxibustion may be direct or indirect. More frequently, indirect moxa is used with loose moxa on the head of the needle or by warming a moxa stick. More direct methods may use a cream on the skin or folded paper between the moxa and the skin. Any of these techniques may result in local reddening of the skin. This may last for several days.
3. Two other techniques employed in oriental medicine are Gwa Sha and Cupping. These techniques are used mainly to relieve muscular tightness in some of the larger muscle groups of the body. The former technique uses the edge of a tool which is scraped on the skin. This may produce a dark reddening in the area which may last for several days. The latter technique uses glass suction cups to create local congestions resulting in discoloration of the treated area for several days.
4. If at any time before or during the course of treatment you suspect you might be pregnant, please understand that **it is important** to inform your Acupuncturist. It has a bearing on the choice of treatment points and methods.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Patient / Personal Representative

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Date