

The World of Dashin (Needle Tapping)

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Dashin is a technique of abdominal needle tapping that is unique to Japan. In the 16th century, a Zen priest named Mubunsai developed an innovative treatment technique (Mubun school dashin) that involves the tapping of needles on the abdomen by using a mallet, in an effort to treat his own mother. However, the use of this technique declined from the end of the 19th century to early in the 20th century, eventually going out of use completely. In 1977, I wrote a book titled *Benshaku Shindo Hiketsushu (Collection of Essential Skills of Acupuncture)*. I endeavored not only to revive the Mubun school dashin but also to study and improve the dashin techniques used in daily clinical practice, thus giving rise to the Renpu style dashin technique. This technique is still in the research stage for further progress; nevertheless, its developmental course now deserves close attention.

1. Mubun school dashin involves tapping sharp-tip needles with a mallet for insertion, whereas Renpu dashin involves tapping round-tip needles with a mallet but without inserting the needles.

2. Needle: Relatively thick metal (gold, silver, copper, brass, aluminum, stainless steel, etc.). Currently, stainless steel is used predominantly. Length: 75 mm (diameter, 3 mm or 6 mm).

Mallet: Seamless wood (ebony, cherry, paulownia, etc.), 150 mm in length (grip) and 30 mm in diameter (tapping plane).

3. Indications: All kinds of diseases.

4. Techniques: Mubun school abdominal palpation, pressing hand, and tapping (Hibikinohari, Sanzuruhari, Kachibikinohari, Makebikinohari, Aibikinohari).

5. Features and advantages

(1) Treatment can be started soon after diagnosis. (2) Less invasive and more hygienic for patients because it involves only an approach to the abdominal wall. The unique sound/vibration produced by tapping produces effects. (3) Resolves distortion and biased Qi distribution, and adjusts the vertical, horizontal, and anteroposterior balance of the living body, leading to healing of the disease.

[Presenter's profile]

• Resume October 1943: Born as the eldest son to a family of acupuncture and moxibustion/traditional Chinese medicine practitioners who have been in the field for more than 300 years (14th successor)

1965: Opened an independent clinic

1979: Founded an academic organization Hokushinkai

1998: Advisor/Councilor at the Japan Traditional Acupuncture and Moxibustion Society; Member of the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine

1999: Special Lecturer at Morinomiya College of Medical Arts and Sciences and Morinomiya University of Medical Sciences

2007: Concluded an academic exchange agreement with Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine and acted as a lecturer at the university

• Award: 18th Manaka Award received for "Zofukeirakugaku" (2004)

• Publications: *Benshaku Shindo Hiketsushu; Pulse Diagnosis of Stomach* & *The Cosmos of Oriental Medicine*; and many others



- Others (major fields, etc.): Intractable diseases
(as called in Western medicine)

Listed as the only acupuncture/moxibustion practitioner
in the “Strict Selection of 276 Excellent Doctors in
Japan for People, 2016” (Sakuranohana Shuppan)