

## **Heaven-Earth-Man Facial Diagnosis**

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Looking at the face is as important a diagnostic tool as listening to the pulse. When observing the face, there are three aspects that are noted. First is the physical structure - the size, shape, and placement of bone and cartilage.

This corresponds to "man." Second is the glitter of the eyes and overall spiritual presence. This corresponds to "heaven." Third is the status of the physiological processes going on in the individual (corresponding to "earth").

In pathology (or lack of harmony or balance) these physiological processes manifest as colors, lines and lesions on the face. This article presents a brief picture that is highly effective in clinical practice and is easy to learn. It's based on a sheet given to me while I was a student at the International College of Oriental Medicine (UK) in 1978. The heaven-earth-man paradigm is based on Shokanten lecture notes from ICOM; additional information about the Shokanten and face diagnosis is available by contacting me. The sources for all of this information are the late Dr. J.D. van Buren and ICOM.



Heart imbalance

## **Earth**

Eyebrows divided into three areas

- Most medial, superior to the inner canthus of the eye, corresponds to Kidney
- Outer third, medial to *San Jiao* 23, corresponds to *San Jiao*
- Middle third corresponds to Spleen

Eyelids

- Upper lid corresponds to Spleen
- Large fluid sacs in this area indicates Kidney problem

Eye

- Pupil - Heart
- Iris - Liver
- Sclera - Lungs

Little lines lateral to outer canthus of eye

- Upper - Small Intestine
- Lower - Heart
- Middle - Bladder

Area below eye

- Yellow and drooping -Stomach
- Red cheekbone area - Heart and Small Intestine
- Blue - Kidneys
- Puffy brown - Liver
- Huge sac - Large Intestine

Ears correspond to kidneys

- Upper part of helix - Heart
- Lower part (lobe) - Kidneys
- Middle - Spleen

Nose corresponds to lungs

- Tip of nose - Spleen
- Nostrils - Lungs
- Nasolabial fold - Gall Bladder

Cheek

- Green color/tinge - Liver
- White face - Metal
- Red face - Fire
- Yellow-grey - constipation
- See above for red cheekbone area
- Left cheek - Lungs
- Right cheek - Large Intestine (colon)

**Man**

Medial to the angle of the jaw - see above

Mouth - in general, controlled by Spleen

- Circle around mouth - Liver
- Corner of the mouth - Stomach, Duodenum
- Edge of lips - Spleen
- Upper lip - Liver
- Lower lip - Large Intestine

Directly below mouth

- On the midline - Large Intestine
- Slightly lateral both sides - Liver

Chin

- Corresponds to Kidneys
- Patient's left side - Blue-grey-yellow tinge - Lungs
- Patient's right side - same colors - Kidneys

Neck area directly below the mandible

- Patient's left side - Large Intestine
- Patient's right side - Stomach

Neck area, lateral and posterior

- Just below the occiput in men - Pericardium/Heart-Constrictor/Circulation-Sex
- Just below the occiput in women - Small Intestine
- Side of neck - Gall Bladder

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