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## Improvements of Scrotal Thermoregulation in Patients with Varicocele Treated by Traditional Korean Medicine: Two Case Reports

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**Purpose:** Varicocele is a dilatation of the pampiniform venous plexus within the spermatic cord. The incidence of varicoceles is 15% in men, and it occurs in more than 40% of men in infertile couples. Surgery or embolisation for varicoceles can improve a couple's likelihood of conceiving. However, the quality of this evidence is low. Traditional Korean medicine (TKM) has been used to treat male infertility in Korea. We present two cases of men with varicoceles diagnosed via physical examination and scrotal thermography.

**Methods:** We treated these men using TKM techniques, including acupuncture, pharmacopuncture, and herbal medicine, for two months. We used scrotal thermography to evaluate the varicoceles before and after TKM treatment.

**Results:** After TKM treatment, the scrotal thermoregulation of both patients was improved. In Patient 1, the temperature difference between the left and right pampiniform plexus (ΔTP) was 2.8 °C before treatment, and it decreased to 1.3 °C. In addition, the temperature difference between the testicles (ΔTT) was 1.5 °C before treatment, and it decreased to 0.2 °C. In Patient 2, the ΔTP was 1.5 °C before treatment, and it decreased to 0.2 °C.

**Conclusion:** This report is the first to show that TKM might be an option among patients with varicoceles, as determined by scrotal thermography evaluation.

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## Development of affective touch

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**Purpose:** Affective touch has been shown to give various health benefits including stress and depression relief. A dichotomy between mechanoreceptive afferents that predominantly signal either discriminative (myelinated Aβ), or affective (unmyelinated C-tactile) aspects of touch has previously been suggested and is well studies in adults. However, a thorough investigation of how the subjective affective aspects of touch develop early in life is unprecedented.

**Methods:** The current study is investigating the relationship between age and psychophysical ratings in response to affective touch. 42 participants (22 boys, 20 girls) aged from 5-12 years have been recruited. They were presented with C-tactile optimal and sub-optimal brushing velocities and rated pleasantness by use of smiley scales.

**Results:** Preliminary results suggest that both age-groups find the C-tactile optimal velocities more pleasant compared to sub- optimal velocities ($p = 0.001$). However, no sex or group differences have currently been found.

**Conclusion:** We conclude that the ability to subjectively report affective aspects of touch evolve early in life. This is discussed in relation to cognitive development.

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## Total Nasal Resistance among Sasang Constitutional Types: A Population-Based Study in Korea

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**Purpose:** There have been many attempts to find an objective phenotype by Sasang constitutional types (SCTs) on an anatomical, physiological, and psychological basis, but there has been no research on total nasal resistance (TNR) among SCTs.