

An Extensive Laboratory Study of Pranic Healing Using Contemporary Medical Imaging and Laboratory Methods

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ABSTRACT & SUMMARY

The objective of our long term study, conducted over the past decade, was to critically evaluate Pranic Healing in a laboratory setting using rigorous mainstream scientific methods. In this study, we investigated possible mediation effects of Pranic Healing on human cells in culture, which had been subjected to gamma radiation.

We chose human HeLa cells for our study since radiation survival rates are well known for such cells and this laboratory model is well established and well characterized for radiation effects studies. Here the goal of the Pranic Healers involved in our study was to alter the effects of radiation and enhance the survival rates of the HeLa cells.

In 520 experiments using 10 different Pranic Healers, typical survival rates increased from an expected 50% for untreated cells to over 90% for cells treated both before and after radiation. The distance between the healer and the cells proved unimportant. Shielding the cells and the healer from electromagnetic radiation, including gamma rays, had no effect on the results. The experience of the healer proved to be slightly important. Four experiments involving groups of Pranic Healers, suggests that group healing enhances the desired effect.

Even though these results are remarkable, healers produced no effect whatever in about 12% of the total runs. Although the reasons for these failures are not fully understood, further experimentation indicates that appropriate preparation of the laboratory space is essential to produce a significant outcome. That is, poorer results are seen in a dirty environment. All of these experiments involved two people directly: a Pranic Healer and a person that managed the cells in culture.

A new series of experiments involved three people directly: a Pranic Healer, a person that managed the cells, and a third person that observed the process. This third person telephoned a favorite charity during the treatment of the cells and made a donation to this charity using their credit card, willing that any good karma that came to them because of the donation be directed to the cells in culture and to their recovery from the effects of radiation. At this point, 100 such experiments have now been conducted.

Although the cell survival rates did not improve from those of the earlier experiments, the failure rate dropped significantly from 12 % to 4%. These experiments represent, to the best of our knowledge, the first experimental observation and measurement of karmic intervention.

Finally, using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), we have measured neurophysiological changes in subjects treated by a Pranic Healer. Shielding both the healer and the subject from all forms of radiation had no effect on the results, even when the two were separated by a great distance.

Our long term study, the details of which will be published shortly in the mainstream scientific literature, clearly shows that Pranic Healing can reverse the effects of radiation on cells in culture, that the healing process is enhanced by a suitable environment, and that karmic intervention can be directed to improve the probabilities of success.

Scientifically, these findings are quite remarkable and are difficult if not impossible to explain in terms of the standard scientific paradigm. A Newtonian physics world view, which serves as the basis for contemporary biology and Western medicine, is incapable of explaining these experimental results; however, the data are quite consistent with a quantum mechanical world view.

INTRODUCTION

Pranic Healing is a so-called biofield therapy established in China thousands of years ago but rediscovered and reformulated in recent times by Master Mei Ling (6th Century AD) and Master Choa Kok Sui (20th Century AD). Pranic Healing is a type of “subtle energy” medicine in which the practitioners believe that they are able to tap into what is termed “prana” or “chi”, the “universal force” or “life force” and to use this “energy” to promote or enhance healing. Here “energy” is used metaphorically for processes we do not fully understand that seem to involve interactions above and beyond conventional energy.

The basis for Pranic Healing, as described by practitioners, stems from observations made by certain sensitive people who are said to perceive “energy fields” or “auras” of color surrounding the human body. This ability to see auras is known as clairvoyance. The colors in the “aura” and the “energy centers” or “chakras” are said to shift constantly reflecting the state of health of the body.

By projecting “energy” of appropriate “colors” the healer is said to be able to change the colors of the “aura” and therefore the state of health. Pranic Healers are trained to sense and project these “energies” even without being clairvoyant.

The Pranic Healing process involves three steps or stages. First, the healer gives blessings and recognition to masters and teachers that have provided guidance. Second, the healer scans the energy or the aura of the subject to diagnose any abnormalities. And third, the healer cleans and energizes the body, the chakras, and the aura of the subject with prana of appropriate colors to promote healing and balance.

The objective of our ongoing study is to critically evaluate Pranic Healing in a laboratory setting. For an experimental model we chose HeLa cells in culture subjected to gamma radiation. Specifically, we investigated possible mediation effects of Pranic Healing on HeLa cells in culture subjected to gamma radiation. Thus, we measured radiation survival rates for the cells with and without Pranic Healing. This laboratory model using a well-known human cell line is well established and well characterized and is widely used to study the subtle effects of radiation at the cellular level.

A single experiment used 10 identical petri dishes with HeLa cells in culture. The dishes were numbered: xA1, xA2, xB1, xB2, xC1, xC2, xD1, xD2, xE1, xE2. Here, x represents the experiment number, A1 and A2 served as controls, B1 and B2 were subjected to radiation only, C1 and C2 were given Pranic Healing after radiation, D1 and D2 were given Pranic Healing before radiation, and E1 and E2 were given Pranic Healing both before and after radiation. Radiation levels and exposure times were chosen to produce a 50% survival rate 24 hours post radiation. To date, we have conducted 520 such single experiments using 10 different Pranic Healers. The results of these studies are summarized in the table below.

TREATMENT OF CELLS BY INDIVIDUAL PRANIC HEALERS

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Survival Rate, 1 Day Post Radiation</u>
A (control)	~ 100% (range: 99.5% - 100%)
B (radiation only)	~ 50% (range: 49.4% - 50.7%)
C (PH after radiation)	~ 70% (range: 67.4% - 71.8%)
D (PH before radiation)	~ 80% (range: 78.1% - 82.9%)
E (PH before and after radiation)	~ 90% (range: 87.8% - 93.4%)

These results indicate that treatment of the cells with Pranic Healing produces a major change in cell survival rate. It should be noted, however, that this table is based on 458 single experiments where the Pranic Healer produced a positive results. In 62 single experiments or about 12% of the total 520 runs, the Healer produced no effect whatever. The reasons for these failures remain unclear and are still under investigation. It would seem that Pranic Healing produces an effect at a certain level or produces no effect at all.

In four additional experiments, Pranic Healing was applied by groups of 24, 32, 42, and 38 Healers. Treating the cells both before and after radiation produced cell survival rates of 95% to 97%. This result suggests that the Pranic Healing effect is enhanced by group healing.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Although a forthcoming publication will provide a detailed analysis for these and additional experiments, we can summarize some of our findings here. First, the distance between the healer and the cells was unimportant. Initially, each healer worked on the cells in my laboratory at UCI. Additional experiments were done with the healer at a distance (in some cases, 6000 miles). The separation between cells and healer had no effect on the result.

Secondly, the shielding of cells from EMF and gamma radiation had no effect on the results. In one extreme case, both the healer and the cells were shielded and separated by a distance of some 6000 miles. These results were indistinguishable from those in which the cells and healer were in the same room and without shielding.

Thirdly, the experience of the healer was found to be slightly important. However, even a beginning student could produce a positive result.

Fourth, although the 10 individual Pranic Healers produced a positive result in some 88% of the experiments, no result was produced in 12% of the experiments, though the healers themselves thought they had produced a positive outcome. In the experiments that failed, no partial results were observed. Thus, the healing process seems to either be on or off, with nothing in between.

Finally, since several of the healers found the laboratory space to be “energetically dirty” an extensive program was undertaken prior to and during the experiments to “etherically clean” the laboratory space. Healers “cleaned” the lab by removing “dirty energy” and “energizing with positive energy.” This “cleaning” process took four months before the healers felt that the lab was sufficiently “clean” to undertake the experiments and continued on a daily basis during the course of the experiments.

After the experiments described above were completed, no additional “cleaning” of the lab was undertaken. In about four months the laboratory had returned to its original state of “energetically dirty.” At this point, an additional set of 50 single experiments were undertaken. For these studies, a failure rate of 90% was observed. That is, only 5 experiments out of 50 were successful, when conducted in an “energetically dirty” environment. An additional set of 50 single experiments were conducted in a laboratory that was judged by the healers to be “extremely energetically dirty.” For these studies, a failure rate of 100% was observed. That is, none of the experiments were successful when conducted in an “extremely energetically dirty” environment.

Collectively, these experiments suggest that the conditioning of the environment in which the studies are conducted is essential to the success of the studies. These findings clearly have important implications to the study and practice of subtle energy medicine.

PRANIC HEALING AND KARMIC INTERVENTION

Even in a clean and well-controlled environment, Pranic Healing failed to alter the effects of radiation on cells in culture in about 12% of the experiments. Such failures occurred even in those cases where the healer believed that they had been successful. In a series of preliminary experiments we have sought to investigate the possible role of karma in influencing the success or failure of these studies.

All of the previous experiments involved two people directly: a Pranic Healer (or a group of Pranic Healers) and a person that managed the cells in culture. This new series of experiments involved three people directly: a Pranic Healer, a person that managed the cells, and a third person that observed the process. This third person telephoned a favorite charity during the treatment of the cells and made a donation to this charity using their credit card, willing that any good karma that came to them because of the donation be directed to the cells in culture and to their recovery from the effects of radiation. Donations ranged from \$20 to \$100. Charities included the local Red Cross, a local homeless shelter, the United Way, the American Cancer Society, and the Katrina Relief Fund.

At this point, 100 such experiments have now been conducted. Although the cell survival rates did not improve from those of the original experiments, the failure rate dropped significantly from 12 % to 4%. No correlations were found between success rate and the amount donated or the charity utilized. These experiments represent, to the best of our knowledge, the first experimental observation and measurement of karmic intervention.

PRANIC HEALING, ACUPUNCTURE, AND fMRI

Previous studies in our lab (see Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., Vol. 95, pp 2670-2673, March 1998) investigated acupuncture using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Specifically, using fMRI, we found that stimulation of specific vision related acupoints in the foot elicit increases in cortical blood flow in circumscribed regions of the visual cortex comparable in magnitude and brain location to those obtained by stimulation of the visual cortex by flashes of light. When the acupuncture needle was directed at a nearby but non-acupoint site, no such effects were observed.

Two healers used in our Pranic Healing cell study were also experienced in acupuncture and had participated in our studies of acupuncture using fMRI. Each of these healers was instructed to focus the subtle energy used during Pranic Healing on the acupoint BL-67, known to be related to vision, in a human subject undergoing fMRI studies of the visual cortex area of the brain. Focusing of the subtle energy (prana) onto the acupoint produced a stimulation of the visual cortex identical to that produced by needle stimulation of the acupoint. Initially, the Pranic Healers were immediately adjacent to the subject undergoing fMRI, with their hand, from which the subtle energy was said to emanate, only a few inches away from the skin surface above BL-67. However, additional experiments in which the healers were located some distance from

the subject produced identical results with fMRI, confirming the possibility for healing at a distance. These preliminary studies suggest that medical imaging methods could play an important role in the investigation of a variety of healing modalities.

FINAL REMARKS

Our study, the details of which will be published shortly in the scientific literature, clearly shows that Pranic Healing can reverse the effects of radiation on cells in culture. These findings are quite remarkable and are difficult if not impossible to explain in terms of the standard scientific paradigm. A Newtonian physics world view, which serves as the basis for contemporary biology and Western medicine, is incapable of explaining these experimental results; however, the data are quite consistent with a quantum mechanical world view.