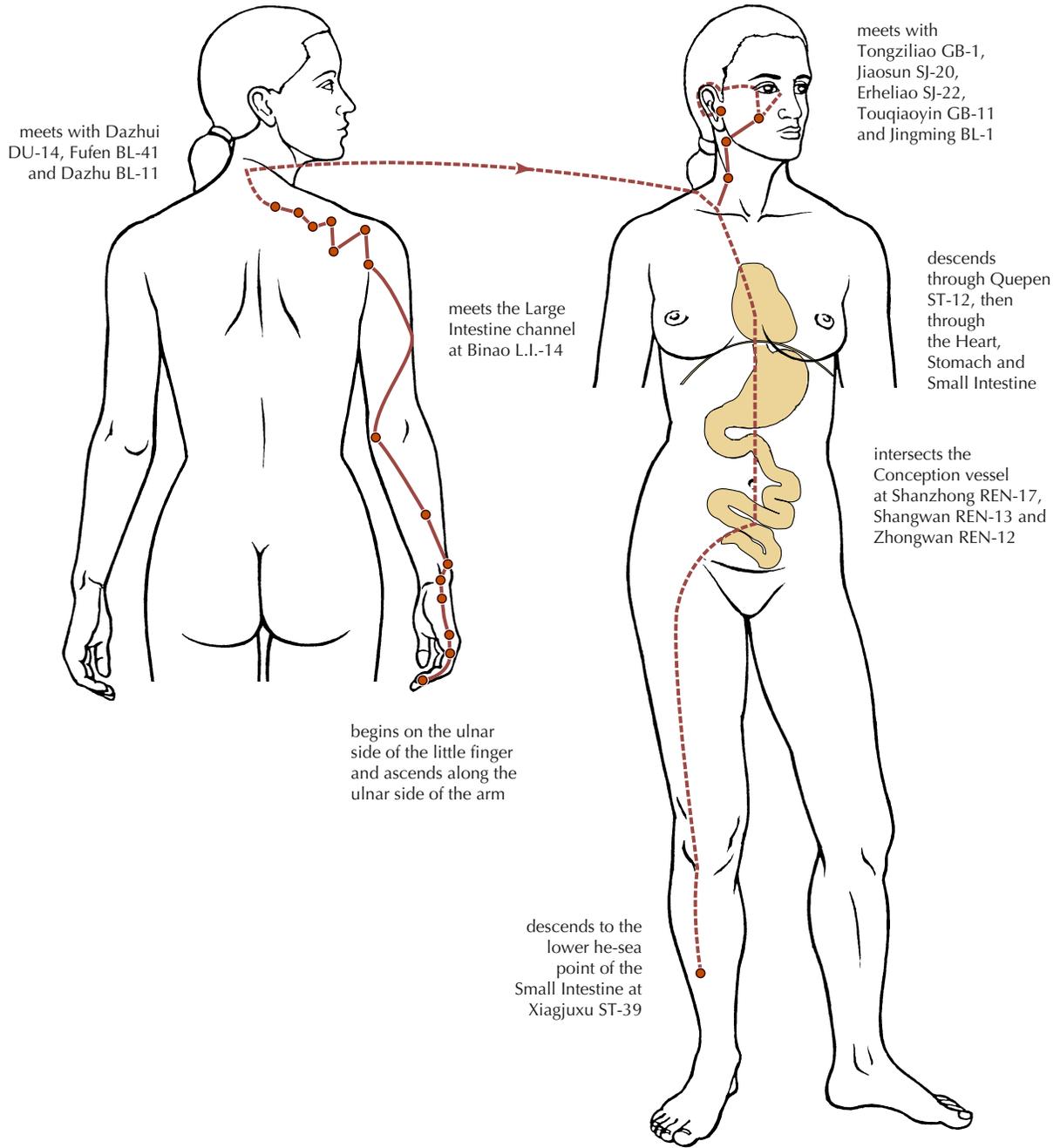

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THE SMALL INTESTINE
CHANNEL OF
HAND TAIYANG

THE SMALL INTESTINE CHANNEL OF HAND TAIYANG



The Small Intestine primary channel

THE SMALL INTESTINE PRIMARY CHANNEL

- originates at the ulnar side of the tip of the little finger at Shaozhe SI-1,
- ascends along the ulnar aspect of the hand to reach the wrist where it emerges at the styloid process of the ulna at Yanglao SI-6,
- follows the ulna to the medial aspect of the elbow, where it passes between the olecranon of the ulna and the medial epicondyle of the humerus at Xiaohai SI-8,
- runs along the posterior aspect of the upper arm (intersecting the Large Intestine channel at Binao L.I-14) to the posterior aspect of the shoulder joint at Naoshu SI-10,
- zig-zags from the inferior fossa to the superior fossa of the scapula through Tianzong SI-11 and Bingfeng SI-12, and then to the medial aspect of the scapular spine at Tianjing SI-13,
- crosses via Jianwaishu SI-14 and Jianzhongshu SI-15 to Dazhui DU-14 at the lower border of the spinous process of C7, intersecting the Bladder channel at Fufen BL-41 and Dazhu BL-11,
- descends into the supraclavicular fossa at Quepen ST-12 and connects with the Heart,
- descends along the oesophagus, intersects the Conception vessel at Shanzhong REN-17 and passes through the diaphragm to the Stomach,
- intersects the Conception vessel at Shangwan REN-13 and Zhongwan REN-12 and enters the Small Intestine.

A branch

- ascends from the supraclavicular fossa to cross the neck and cheek to the outer canthus of the eye, where it meets the Gall Bladder channel at Tongziliao GB-1, then travels posteriorly towards the ear, where it intersects the Gall Bladder channel at Touqiaoyin GB-11 and the Sanjiao channel at Jiaosun SJ-20 and Erheliao SJ-22 and enters the ear at Tinggong SI-19.

Another branch

- separates from the previous branch on the cheek and ascends to the infra-orbital region (Quanliao SI-18) then along the lateral aspect of the nose to the inner canthus where it meets with the Bladder channel at Jingming BL-1.
- According to the *Spiritual Pivot*¹ another branch descends to Xiajuxu ST-39, the lower he-sea point of the Small Intestine.

The Small Intestine primary channel connects with the following zangfu: Heart, Stomach and Small Intestine.

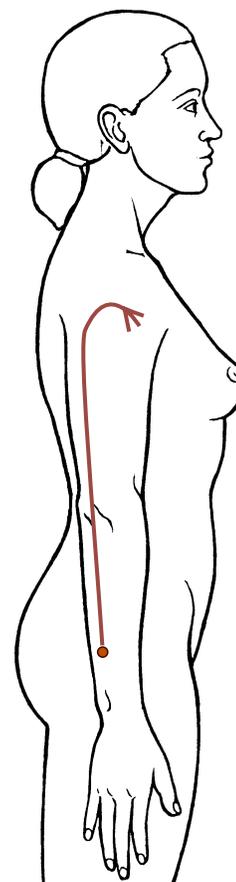
The Small Intestine primary channel meets with other channels at the following points: Binao L.I.-14, Dazhui DU-14, Fufen BL-41, Dazhu BL-11, Quepen ST-12, Shanzhong REN-17, Shangwan REN-13, Zhongwan REN-12, Tongziliao GB-1, Touqiaoyin GB-11, Jiaosun SJ-20, Erheliao SJ-22, Jingming BL-1.

THE SMALL INTESTINE LUO-CONNECTING CHANNEL

- separates from the Small Intestine channel at Zhizheng SI-7 and connects with the Heart channel,
- ascends along the arm and connects with the shoulder at Jianyu L.I.-15.

THE SMALL INTESTINE DIVERGENT CHANNEL

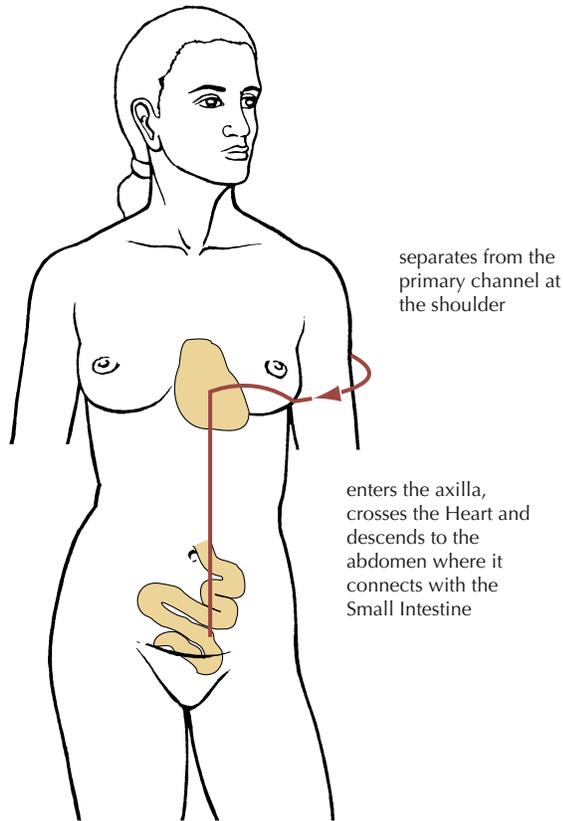
- separates from the primary channel at the shoulder,
- enters the axilla, crosses the Heart and descends to the abdomen where it connects with the Small Intestine.



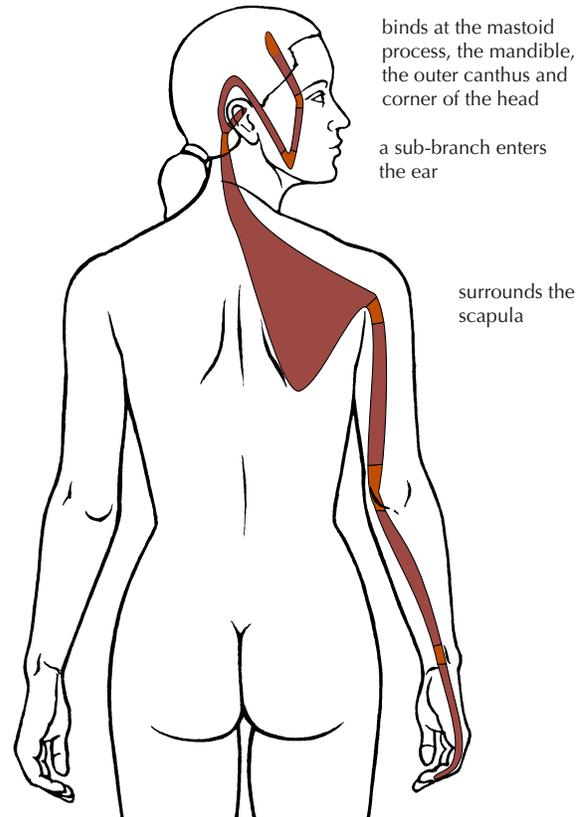
connects with the shoulder at Jianyu L.I.-15

separates from the Small Intestine channel at Zhizheng SI-7 and connects with the Heart channel

The Small Intestine luo-connecting channel



The Small Intestine divergent channel



The Small Intestine sinew channel

THE SMALL INTESTINE SINEW CHANNEL

- originates on the dorsum of the little finger,
- binds at the wrist,
- ascends the ulnar side of the forearm to the elbow where it binds at the medial condyle of the humerus,
- ascends the arm to bind at the axilla,
- travels behind the axilla and surrounds the scapula,
- ascends the neck, anterior to the Bladder sinew channel, to bind at the mastoid process,
- ascends to behind the ear where a sub-branch enters the ear,
- continues to ascend behind the ear to the region above the ear where it then descends to bind at the mandible,

- ascends across the teeth to bind at the outer canthus,
- ascends to bind at the corner of the head near Touwei ST-8.

Pathological symptoms of the Small Intestine sinew channel

Strained little finger, pain along the medial aspect of the elbow and upper arm, pain below the axilla and on the posterior aspect of the axilla, pain of the scapula that reaches the neck, tinnitus, pain of the ear that may reach the submandibular region, a need to close the eyes for a long period of time before being able to see clearly, tension of the neck sinews that leads to sinew atrophy and swelling of the neck.

DISCUSSION

The Small Intestine channel of hand taiyang is ascribed to fire, and is interiorly-exteriorly coupled with the Heart channel and paired with the Bladder channel of foot taiyang according to six channel theory. As far as the Small Intestine channel pathways are concerned it is worth noting that:

- the primary and divergent channels connect with the Heart.
- the primary and sinew channels travel to the posterior aspect of the shoulder, whilst the luo-connecting channel connects with Jianyu L.I.-15.
- the divergent and sinew channels connect with the axilla.
- the primary channel connects with the scapula, and the sinew channel surrounds the scapula.
- the primary and sinew channels connect with the neck, cheek, outer canthus and ear.
- the primary channel also connects with the inner canthus.
- the sinew channel connects with the mastoid process, the teeth and the corner of the forehead.

It is by virtue of the Small Intestine's status as a fire channel, its links with the Heart and Bladder channels, and the pathways of its primary and secondary channels that many of the actions and indications of the points of the Small Intestine channel can be explained. These can be summarised as:

- clearing heat from the pathways of the channel and reducing fever, especially malarial fever (points Shaoze SI-1 to Wangu SI-4).
- assisting in transforming phlegm and clearing heat from the Heart zang, especially in the treatment of mania disorder (Houxi SI-3, Yanggu SI-5, Zhizheng SI-7 and Xiaohai SI-8).
- cooling heat and fire and alleviating pain along the course of the channel in the arm, axilla, shoulder, scapula, neck (including mumps) and throat, jaw, mouth, teeth, tongue, nose, cheek, eyes and ears. Points of the Small Intestine channel are particularly indicated for swelling (mainly of the neck, throat and cheek).
- treating disorders of the breast (Shaoze SI-1, Qiangu SI-2 and Tianzong SI-11) and lateral costal region (Shaoze SI-1, Wangu SI-4, Yanggu SI-5 and Tianzong SI-11). The meeting of the Small Intestine primary channel with the centre of the chest at Shanzhong REN-17 can in part explain the action of these points on the breast, but there is no obvious reason why points of the Small Intestine channel should influence the lateral costal region.

- Note that even though the principal function of the Small Intestine fu is to receive, transform and separate fluids, the only indications relating to this function are dark and hesitant urination (Qiangu SI-2 and Houxi SI-3). Even more notably, despite the fact that the channel connects with the diaphragm and Stomach, passes through Zhongwan REN-12 and Shangwan REN-13, and descends to the Small Intestine, no points of the Small Intestine channel are indicated for disorders of the digestive system.