

A Descriptive Vocabulary of Dysfunctions: According to A. T. Still

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I have organized seventy key words used by A. T. Still to describe what we now call a somatic dysfunction and what we used to call an Osteopathic lesion. These come directly from his four published books and are unabridged. Still used a colorful and descriptive collection of terms that are listed and categorized below. These are my favorites. There are many others we may add to this impressive list. Consider using the perception: "Variation from the healthy condition" rather than recording in your chart note that T4 is side-bent and rotated to the left. Have you ever felt "closed gates?" I have, and this palpatory portrayal is a very interesting finding. I have enlarged and made bold forty of these words and phrases because they are more meaningful to me. Maybe we could practice Osteopathy more like Andrew Taylor Still. His teachings are hiding in plain sight.

General Terms

Obstruction(s)

Variation from the healthy condition

Deviation from normal

Closed gates

Channels of supply closed

Incomplete supply

The friction that produces abnormal conditions

Lack of nourishment

Action/Function

Confused action

Limited action

Disordered functioning

Abnormal work

Obstructions to regular movements

Functional derangement in the physiologic department

Vitality

Stopping of some quality of life

Reduced vital energies

Devitalized fluids

Suspended forces

Dead fluids

Nervous System

Constriction of nerve supply

Obstruction of nerves

Shortage of nerve supply

Ligation of nerve supply

Local paralysis of nerves

Neurologic irritability

Nerve irritation

Fluids

Unhealthy fluids

Devitalized fluids

Dead fluids

Inharmony in the circulation of the blood

Obstructed fluids

Delay of fluids

Hindering causes to normal flow of blood and other fluids



Lack of pure blood

Stopping of some supply of fluid

Dried up fluids/Fluids dried up

Withholding of fluids

Stoppage of blood supply

Suspended blood/Suspension of blood

Ligation of blood supply

Temporary, partial, or complete stoppage of arterial supply

Pressure, stricture or contraction to the passage of blood

Delay in passage of blood

Interference of the flow of blood



Congestion

Venous congestion

Venous blood suspended

Venous resistance

Fluid retention/Retained fluids

Accumulation of fluid

Unnatural accumulation

Unnatural accumulation of fluids

Unnatural accumulation of the circulating fluids

Edema (oedema)

Oedematous accumulation

Watery swelling of fascia and lymphatics

Watery swelling of the nerves of nutrition

Contraction holds the fluids shut up

Stagnation and decomposition

Muscles/Bones/Biomechanics

Normal and abnormal position of all bones

Mechanical variations

Starvation and spasm of muscles

Starvation of muscles

Mechanical causes for disordered function

Fascia

Retention in the fascia

Oedema of the fascia

Congestion of the fascia and all of the lymphatic glands

Inflammation

Adhesive inflammation