



The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK

ATCM, Suite 12 Brentano House, Unit 5 The Exchange, Brent Cross Gardens, London NW4 3RJ
Tel: 0208 457 2560; E-mail: info@atcm.co.uk; Website: www.atcm.co.uk

Press Release

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The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK (ATCM) released a statement on the death of a British elderly lady with Type 1 Diabetes after attending a 'slapping therapy' workshop

Recently, Chinese and foreign media have reported that 71-year-old British lady Danielle Carr-Gomm, a Type 1 Diabetic patient, was found dead in her hotel hours after undertaking 'slap treatment' in a 'self-healing workshop' and that three people had been arrested for a manslaughter investigation. The operator of this week-long course was Hongchi Xiao who is originally from Beijing. Danielle's tragic death has aroused some public concern. Some of the public think that this 'slapping treatment' is part of Traditional Chinese Medicine because some media reported the term 'Chinese Paida Therapy'.

In this regard, Professor Shulan Tang on behalf of The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK (ATCM) made the following statement:

- First of all, we are deeply saddened by the unfortunate death of the patient.
- Secondly, Mr. Xiao's "slapping therapy" is not within the scope of Traditional Chinese Medicine practise, we would like to stress that the 'slapping treatment' in this unfortunate event does not belong to Traditional Chinese Medicine treatment.
- Third, the media reported that the patient may have stopped using insulin and other drugs to control blood sugar and fasting, such practices are contrary to traditional Chinese medicine and modern medical knowledge and we do not endorse them. In this regard, we urge the public to consult their own doctors before considering reducing or stopping the use of medicines prescribed by their doctors. And for your health and safety, we advise you to consult with professional bodies, such as ATCM, when considering using alternative therapies from China.

With more than 700 formal members, ATCM is the largest Chinese Medicine professional body in the UK, it has strict admission standards and members must hold a bachelor's degree in Chinese medicine and a high standard of English. ATCM is committed to the continuous training of members in professional medical knowledge and professional conduct, and is deeply concerned with the public's safety and protection. Professor Shu-lan Tang, the president of ATCM once again urged the media and the public to understand that the 'slapping therapy' involved in this tragic incident is in no way part of formal Chinese medicine.

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