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section

The Touch of a DO: The Need for the Global Advancement of Osteopathic Medicine

Phillip N. Hilton, OMS-II

A.T. Still University – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

TAP TO GO BACK
TO KIOSK MENU

Introduction

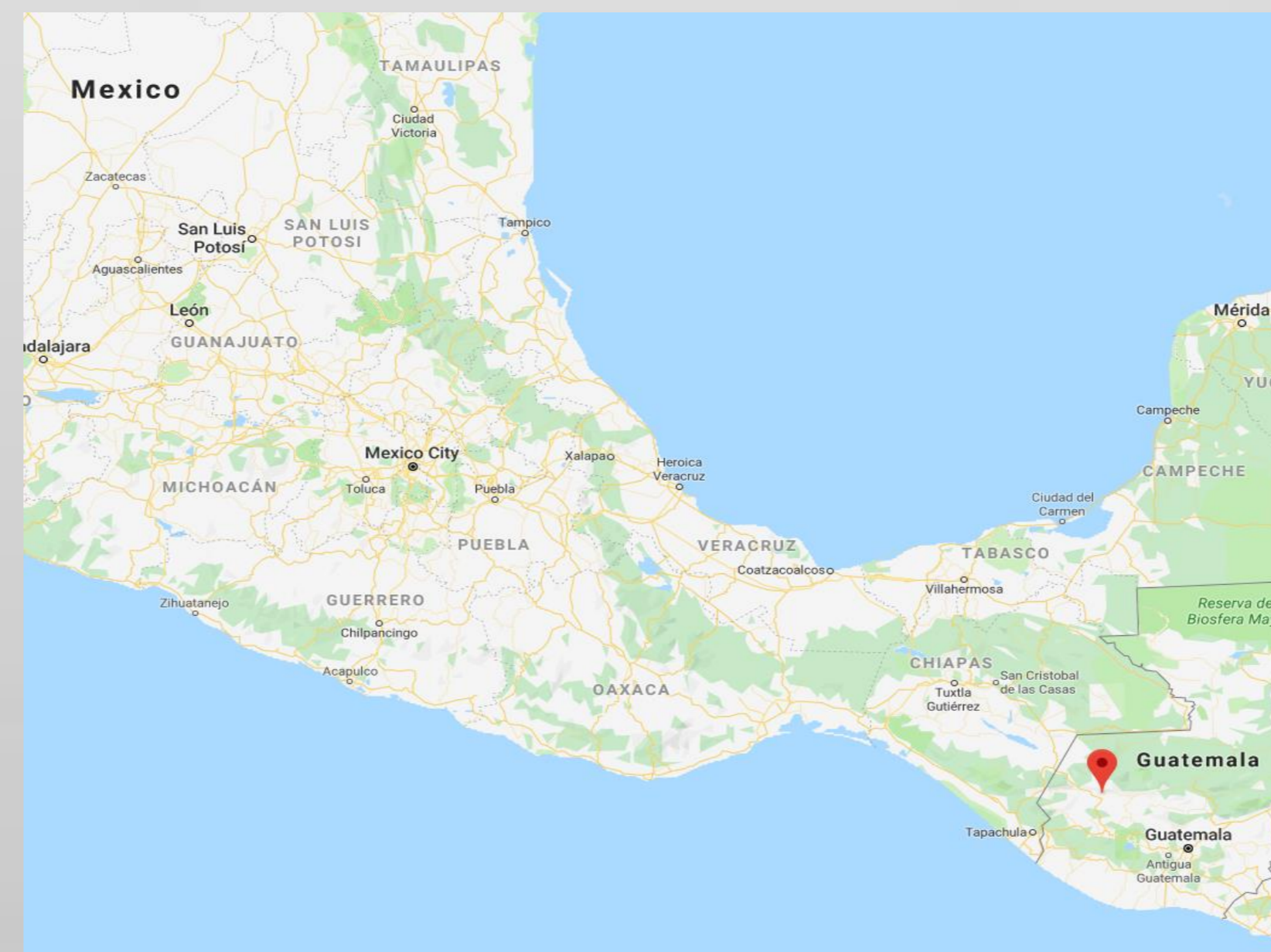
Methods

Results

Discussion
&
Conclusion

This is a personal narrative of a training mission with the military—where I functioned as a medic and Spanish translator—I observed that the patient population of Chiantla and Tojocaz, Guatemala were unfamiliar with the use of physical examination and physical treatment (i.e. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine)

Through the hands, a physician can listen to, diagnose, and communicate with patients. Many people are receptive to this hands-on paradigm used to promote health



Touch was a rarely used method to diagnose and communicate with the patients in this region

Does touch used in patient-physician encounters affect care?

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Patient 1:

30-year-old male c/o neck, back,
and knee pain

Patient sat across the table from the
physician who asked a series of
questions

No physical examination was
performed

Prescribed NSAID X 1 week for pain



Patient 2:

31-year-old male c/o back and knee

Sat next to the physician who asked
medical history

Physical examination performed

Diagnosed with somatic
dysfunction: appropriate OMM was
performed with a steroid shot in
knee

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Patient 1:

Left the encounter content with his
treatment



Patient 2:

Appeared stunned when physician
asked permission to touch and treat
with his hands, as they had never been
touched by a physician before

Left impressed with the experience and
shared with his family and friends his
positive experience with touch in the
physical exam and hands-on treatment
approach



Patient volume increased by 500
patients on second clinic day

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Discussion

Of the 195 countries in the world, roughly fifty of them grant U.S. trained Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine full practicing rights

It is our opportunity to go into the world and share osteopathic medicine and allow others to be touched by this human connections

The power of touch changes lives. Through physical contact, physicians can diagnose while simultaneously communicating that we care



An unspoken connection occurs when touch is used.

Touch symbolizes everything important in a physician-patient relationship: confidence, faith, and equality.

Conclusion

The importance of touching patients and treating the whole person is the most important lesson learned from this observation



The Touch of a DO –
Original Paper