

Welcome to Clove Tree Community Acupuncture!

Since our office runs differently than many acupuncture office, please take a few minutes to slowly read this introduction to our clinic.

This is community acupuncture clinic. We are able to keep our price affordable by treating patients in a community setting. You will have initial consultation in a private office, and then all treatments will be performed in a shared room. You and your acupuncturist will speak briefly in whispers during treatment. Treating patients in a community setting has many benefits: it is easy for friends and family member to come in for treatment together; and a collective energetic field becomes established which actually make individual treatment more powerful.

We have a sliding scale. Most patients in China receive affordable acupuncture in group treatment rooms. However, in the United States, this “people’s medicine” has turned to an expensive luxury that only a very few can afford. We believe that everyone has the right to affordable health care. By keeping our cost low and our volume high, we are able to offer a sliding scale.

Acupuncture is most effective when it is done frequently and regularly. This is especially true at the beginning of a course of treatment when we are getting the ball rolling. Twice a week is usually the minimum required to make progress with most health issues, although more frequent visits are common for short periods of time if the problem is quite intense.

The purpose of the sliding scale is to separate issues of money and treatment. It is most important to us that you get treated as often as needed. Our sliding scale is \$20-\$40 per treatment. Pay what you afford, no questions asked. We understand that financial situations can vary greatly, even from week to week. We will be happy with your payment no matter where it fall on the sliding scale.

Because we offer a sliding scale, we cannot accept insurance (this is the insurance companies’ rule). If you have insurance that covers acupuncture, we will be happy to give you a receipt and you can submit for reimbursement.

Acupuncture is a process. Acupuncture works by stimulating the body’s own self-healing mechanisms. It is gentle, safe and gradual. Almost everyone who gets acupuncture will need a series of treatments to get good results. We hope that you will feel better right after your first treatment, but to get these results to “stick”, you will probably need a series of treatment closely spaced together. Each treatment builds upon the previous one—acupuncture is cumulative. So if you do not come in often enough or for long enough, acupuncture probably won’t work for you. In fact, you will spend less money and less time by getting treated frequently in the beginning, that if you come sporadically for a long period of time. Your acupuncturist will suggest a treatment plan for you. Please let us know if you have any questions about your treatment plan, and please stick to it to the best of your ability.

We do not provide primary care medicine. Acupuncture is a wonderful complement to Western medicine, but is not a substitute. If you have, or think you may have a potentially life-threatening condition, you should either go to your physician or go to emergency room, as appropriate.

Our commitment to you

- We strive to make your course of treatment as quick and effective as possible. No matter what your condition, we will give you the best acupuncture we can, in the most effective way we can.
- We will always treat you with respect and without judgment.
- We will be a partner with you in developing a healthy life.
- We will always be available to listen to any advice or feedback you have about us and our clinic.
- We will constantly work to sharpen our communication and clinical skills through ceaseless education.
- We will work to become a useful and integral part of the community we serve.
- We will do our best to be environmentally friendly and to promote social justice.

You responsibilities

- Wear clothes that you can comfortably roll above your elbows and knees.
- Please do not come in on an empty stomach or overly full.
- Always speak in a low voice. Be respectful of others around you.
- Please hang your coat and take your personal belongings (bags, etc) with you into the treatment room. Turn off your cell phone.
- MP3 players are great as long as our neighbors can not hear the music through your headphones.
- Please allow at least 20 minutes with the needles in. 45 to 60 minutes is best. If you fall asleep during treatment, as many people do, we will gently wake you when your treatment is done.
- Tell us if you need the needles to be removed at a specific time. Otherwise, when you feel ready, just open your eyes, give us a meaningful look or make a cough, and we will remove your needles.
- Acupuncture feels great! If for some reason you do not feel comfortable, please let us know immediately.
- Please try not to move once the needles are in. If you do move by accident and a needle becomes uncomfortable, let us know right away.
- Please try to stick to your treatment plan. Your level of commitment will determine your results.
- CTCA does not receive grants, state or federal money, or insurance reimbursement—it is a sustainable community business model. Please re-scheduling and making payment BEFORE each treatment, so you can relax and enjoy your treatment.
- If you are happy with your treatment, please tell your friends and family. Better yet, bring them with you to your next treatment! The success of our clinic relies on you.