



Standard of practice: Diagnostic testing

Naturopathic doctors in British Columbia use a variety of diagnostic testing techniques.

Primary diagnostic procedures:

Naturopathic doctors may rely upon the following sources of information in order to make a diagnosis:

1. **Physical examination**

The naturopathic doctor investigates the body of a patient for signs of disease or illness. S/he sometimes uses instruments including the stethoscope, specula, ophthalmoscope, otoscope, etc.

2. **Laboratory testing**

Conventional biochemical analysis of blood, saliva, stool, urine, hair, synovial fluid and other tissues for diagnosis of pathology, monitoring of care, and preventative screening. Examples of laboratory diagnosis include, but are not limited to: complete blood cell count (CBC), serum chemistries, urinalysis and Pap smears.

3. **Imaging and electro-diagnosis**

Diagnostic ultrasounds, X-rays, endoscopic methods, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), CT scans and PET scans, electrocardiographic (ECG), electroencephalography (EEG), electromyography (EMG), and plethysmography.

Non-diagnostic procedures for information-gathering only

Non-diagnostic procedures include applied kinesiology, biological impedance analysis, biological terrain analysis, cardiovision, computerized regulation thermography, darkfield microscopy, electrodermal screening, and iridology. A diagnosis may not be made as the sole result of a non-diagnostic procedure. Information-gathering procedures may only be used to supplement primary diagnostic procedures.

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