

Hand Lines and Medical Science

Shahid Mahmood*, Nouman Maqbool**, Ashraf Mahmood***, Irum Batool*, Nadeem Muhammad*, Sikandar Aslam*

* Department of Surgery, Fauji Foundation Hospital, Rawalpindi; ** Department of Orthopaedics, Fauji Foundation Hospital, Rawalpindi; *** Department of Neurosurgery, District Head Quarters Hospital, Rawalpindi.

Abstract

Background: To assess scientific logic and common beliefs, regarding life line.

Methods: In this descriptive study, one hundred critically ill patients in the surgical department and one hundred normal person as control were included. Photographs of both the hands of the patients and control groups were analyzed for life line.

Results: Majority of the patients (64%) had clear life line. In control group 70% had clear life line. There was no major difference in the pattern of life line in both the groups.

Conclusion: There is no scientific reason to believe that hand lines have any impact on the life or luck of a person.

Key Words: Hand lines, life line, palmistry.

IITC. Patients with age more than 60, amputation of hands, burn or crush injury to the hands in which hand lines were not recognizable were excluded from the study.

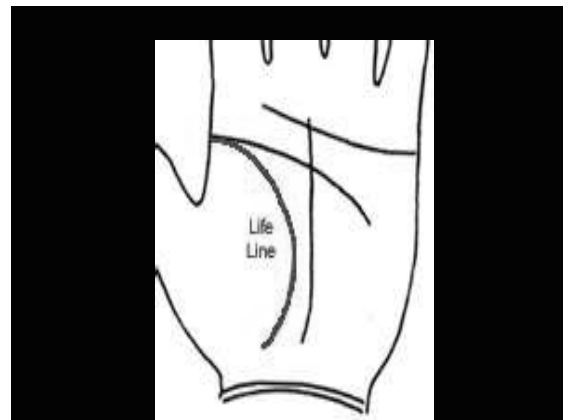


Fig 1: Major Hand Lines

Introduction

According to the teaching of palmistry, four major hand lines are present on both hands of most of the people (Fig 1). These are life line, heart line, brain line & luck line. ¹ If there is a break in the life line of a dominant hand, it means that person has threat to his life in that particular decade. ^{2,3,4} There is also, supposedly, direct relationship between hand lines and general health of a person. ³

Photographs of the face and both hand lines of patients were taken. Daily progress, blood transfusion, surgical procedures, admission in ICU & ventilatory support, if required were noted till the patients were discharged or died. Photographs of 100 people of same age group and gender as control were also taken. Any break in the life line was noted with photographs of both hands.

Patients and Methods

This descriptive study was designed in the Department of Surgery, DHQ Hospital Rawalpindi from 1st Feb 2008 to 30th July 2008. One hundred patients were included in the study. Inclusion criteria was critically ill patients at the time of admission due to penetrating injury to neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, more than 50 % burns, fall from more than 50 feet, blast injury and after admission requiring two or more than two major surgical interventions to save life, had more than 4 blood transfusions for resuscitation or needed ventilatory support in

Results

Majority of the patients (64%) had clear life line. In control group 70% had clear life line. There was no major difference in the life line in both the groups. (Table 1 & 2). Out of one hundred critically ill patients, 40 patients died even after maximum possible care. More interestingly 30 patients died with clear life line on both hands & only 10 patients who died had break in their life line. It was found out that break in the life line was present in 26 to 30 % of population. Rather surprisingly it was present 4 % more i.e. 30 % in healthy people without any history of trauma or

disease as compared to 26 % who had critical illness, trauma or disease.

Table 1: Patient group (n=100)

Male	82
Female	18
Break in life line	26
Clear life line	74

Table 2: Control group (n=100)

Break in life line	30
Clear life line	70

Discussion

Palmistry is one of the oldest professions in the world. Aristotle was the first person who wrote book on palmistry. ³ In contradiction to a common belief that palmistry is present only in the east, palmists are welcome in western society also. They are available on internet. They are not only present on the foot paths of any town or city in Pakistan, but have very well furnished offices in the posh & expensive areas of Karachi, Lahore & Islamabad. Julius Caesar, famous Roman Emperor was himself an expert palmist. ⁴ All the classes of society including politicians, businessmen & common people believe in palmistry. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto after announcing elections in 1977 went to Srilanka and requested to

visit royal palmists to know his luck regarding fore coming general elections.⁵ As compared to males, females believe more on palmistry and future forecasting. ⁶ All the renowned Islamic scholars are against palmistry.⁷ Surely it is Allah who has the knowledge of the hour. He is the One Who sends down the rain and He knows what is in the wombs. No one knows what he will earn next day; and nobody knows in what land he will die. Surely, Allah knows all this and is aware of every thing. ⁸

Conclusion

There is no scientific reason to believe that hand lines have any impact on the life or luck of a person.

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