

Technology Review



DETOXIFICATION MACHINE SERVICES - PLATINUM DETOX MACHINE

**HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT UNIT
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Detoxification machine been introduced to the Malaysian market about 1 year ago and it has received tremendous uproar in the country, particularly at the urban setting. In the UK, it has reached its 6th year of use since first introduced. The effect of mass media marketing has brought this technology as one of the famous alternative medical treatment available recently. It is available everywhere, mostly set up at shopping centers. Numerous claims were made by its manufacturers and also customers, that it could help to detoxify the body and cure many ailments, causing many others trying the technology. Such a momentum from the mass promotion and claims, have raised questions about the effectiveness and safety of this technology.

2.0 OBJECTIVE

This technology review looks into the effectiveness and safety of the detoxification machine, particularly Platinum Detox™.

3.0 TECHNICAL ASPECT

'Detoxification therapy' using the detoxification machine/unit involves immersing the feet into a foot bowl filled with water. The machine which also consist of an array, will cause ionization of the water and generate a magnetic biofield when activated by the electric supply. Most of the manufacturers recommend the customers to soak their feet for about 30 minutes in the warm water within the detox machine. The operators will then set the machine to certain setting and ionization levels. It was reported that the water will change in colour and consistency, signifying that the body has 'self-detoxify' after a 're-balancing and re-energising' therapy. Different color change was said due to the different toxins excreted from the body. Most of the manufacturers recommend their customers to undergo several sessions of this therapy to gain its full benefits.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

A search using numerous databases was done. The keywords used were: detoxification, detoxification machine, heavy metal, foot spa, platinum detox, aqua machine, foot bath, ion cleanser, bio-energy, detox array, and internal body cleansing. Personal communication with the Platinum Detox™ Asia (M'sia) representative was also made, along with enquiries via internet to the respected manufacturers.

5.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There is no literature available regarding any scientific clinical trial of effectiveness or safety of this technology. (Refer Appendix : Search Strategy Table).

Personal communication with the Platinum Detox™ Asia (M'sia) representative revealed that so far, no clinical trials regarding the technology has been made by its UK counterparts. However, she reported that the UK counterparts have done the 'post-session' water analysis, but full report of that analysis has not yet been received by her. She claimed that this technology does not directly cause body detoxification, but it bio-energetically stimulate the body organs particularly the liver and kidneys to function better, thus enabling self detoxification and rebalancing of the body. The numerous claims of effectiveness (i.e improved liver and kidney function, circulation, pain, heavy metal detoxified) was made by the satisfied customers, thus the manufacturers use these claims in their promotional marketing strategy.

Enquiries about any clinical trials regarding this matter was made to the respected company via internet, however, no reply was given until the time this report was written.

6.0 CONCLUSION

There is no literature available regarding any scientific clinical trial of effectiveness or safety of this technology.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

There is a need to do clinical trials regarding the effectiveness and safety of this technology, considering the impact caused by this technology towards the customers, as one of the alternative medical therapy.

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**TECHNOLOGY REVIEW : DETOXIFICATION MACHINE & SERVICES
- PLATINUM DETOX MACHINE TM**

SEARCH STRATEGY

Date	Database	Keywords	Year Publications	Other limit	No of search	No of relevant title	No of relevant abstract	No of full article used	Notes
				Lang: Study: Age: Sex: Journal: Publication Type:					
24/1/05	YAHOO.com	-foot detoxification machine			3300				Articles from manufacturers of foot detox machine. NO clinical evidence of effectiveness or safety.

24/1/05	COCHRANE	- Detoxification - Detoxification machine - Detoxification heavy metal -Foot spa -Foot detoxification machine			10 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0			
24/1/05 25/1/05	PubMed	-Platinum detoxification machine -Foot detoxification - Detoxification -Foot spa - Detoxification machine -Heavy metal detoxification -Body detoxification -Body cleansing			0 6 181 6 4 4 8 5	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0			

25/1/05	American Journal of Public Health	- Detoxification machine - Detoxification service -Aqua machine -Foot bath			161 19 0 0	0 0 0 0			
25/1/05	Canadian Medical Journal	- Detoxification - Detoxification machine -Heavy metal detoxification			28 1 0	0 0 0			
25/1/05	Centre for reviews and dissemination [CRD]	- Detoxification machine. -Foot detoxification machine -Foot spa -Foot bath			0 1 2 1	0 0 0 0			
25/1/05	National Centre for Complementary & Alternative medicine [nccam]	- Detoxification machine -Foot detoxification machine -Platinum detox machine			0 0 0	0 0 0			

26/1/05	PUBMED	-Ion cleanser -Bio-energy -Detox array -Internal body cleansing			0 9 0 0	0 0 0 0			
26/1/05	National Centre for Complementary & Alternative Medicine	-Ion cleanser -Bio-energy -Detox array -Internal body cleansing			0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0			
26/1/05	WHO Regional Office	- Detoxification machine -Aqua detox -Detox array -Ion cleanser			0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0			
26/1/05	ECRI	- Detoxification machine -Platinum detox machine -Ion cleanser -Detox array			0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0			

18/2/05	Personal communication with Ms. Anne Lee (nutritionist at Platinum Detox (Asia) Marketing sdn Bhd Hp:016-2553129 or 016-2256098 Fax 03-61372328								-currently NO published studies on effectiveness of detox machine. -Only testimonials from satisfied customers who claim their major symptoms are fading -main branch in UK is reported to be conducting a research but no reply or details given to her when she requested for it (apparently many doctors have requested for evidence from her)
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18/2/05	e-mail to ibcnet@streamyx.com (Ms Anne Lee)								Requested for any related clinical studies done on detox machine
18/2/05	Send request to customer@ebonuslink.com (EBL ion-cleanser website)								Requested for any related clinical studies done on detox machine / EBL ion cleanser
21/2/05	Check mail-box								No reply from both companies
1/3/05	Check mail-box								No reply from both companies
10/3/05	Check mail-box								No reply from both companies