

disciplines, in the creative and mental abstractions of people regardless of time and space also suggests a need for a multi-disciplinary approach to their study. This will enhance the potential applications of the fundamental principles of nature that are inbuilt in the symmetry of these shapes.

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NEWS

CHELATION THERAPY: A MIRACLE CURE?

... "Chelation therapy, touted as a miracle cure by its proponents and denounced as a fraud by its critics, has been used to treat 400,000 people at 1,000 or so clinics across the nation, its proponents say The therapy involves the introduction of a chelating agent, ethylenediamine tetraacetate (EDTA), into a patient's bloodstream for about 20 to 30 four-hour-long sessions. The EDTA purportedly binds to, or chelates, the calcium in atherosclerotic plaques, breaking up the plaques and increasing the diameter of arteries to let blood flow through more easily. The EDTA-calcium complex is then excreted from the body. Such was the mechanism originally proposed in the mid-1950s to explain how chelation therapy works. But this mechanism, along with the therapy itself, has been discredited by most members of the medical profession, including the American Medical Assn., American Heart Assn., American Coll. of Physicians,

and American Osteopathic Assn. An article in July 1984 *Harvard Medical School Health Letter* explains why: 'Even if chelation therapy did take calcium out of atherosclerotic plaques, it does not automatically follow that blood flow would improve as a result. The remaining material—cholesterol, excessive smooth muscle tissue and fibrous scar—would still remain to obstruct blood flow' Like laetrile, chelation therapy seems to be a modern version of patent medicines of old. No longer hawked on the streets, and more sophisticated than herbals and exotic mixtures, chelation therapy nonetheless appeals to those looking for a quick and easy fix to medical problems."

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