THE LUNAR NODES
IN MEDICAL ASTROLOGY



an article by

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THE LUNAR NODES IN MEDICAL ASTROLOGY

In this article we will explore the purpose and use of the Nodes of the Moon in medical astrology. It is intended as a survey of medical interpretations of the Nodes in the astrological literature. We will examine the charts of celebrities to study the role of the Nodes in terms of various medical issues. Let's begin with defining what the Lunar Nodes are.

DEFINITION

> "The lunar nodes are those degrees in the zodiac where the plane of the moon's orbit crosses the plane of the ecliptic. As with the other angles IC/MC, Ascendant/Descendant, Vertex and anti-vertex the nodes are two ends of an axis 180 degrees apart. The North Node—also called the Dragon's

> Head or Caput Draconis—is the point at which the Moon crosses the ecliptic heading north. The South Node—or the Dragon's tail or Cauda Draconia—is the point where the Moon crosses the ecliptic heading south. The lunar nodes move backward in the zodiac at the rate of a little over 3' of arc per day, completing one term around the zodiac every 18.6 years."[1]

As mentioned, this article discusses the Nodes solely in terms of their influence in medical astrology. At the end you will find additional sources for information on the Nodes in terms of life purpose, connections and associations based on the signs, house positions and aspects to the natal Nodes. This includes the use of the Nodes in predictive astrology. The works of many well-known astrologers were used to glean information on how the Nodes work in medical astrology.

THE NODES IN THE SIGNS

There is sometimes an association between the signs of the North and South Node in terms of bodily weakness and the potential for a health issue. The South Node is considered more difficult than the North Node in terms of health; but hard aspects to the Nodes would involve both the North and South Node. The best way to think of the Nodes in connection with the signs is to understand the anatomical links between the signs of the zodiac and the parts of the body. Very simply, in terms of location: Aries rules the head; Taurus the throat and neck area; Gemini the arms and hands; Cancer the stomach, chest cavity, and breasts; Leo the heart and middle back; Virgo the intestines and pancreas; Scorpio the eliminative and reproductive organs; Sagittarius the hips and thighs; Capricorn the bones, teeth and hair; Aquarius the ankles; and Pisces the feet.

The signs also have other properties such as locomotion for the Gemini/Sagittarius axis, digestion for Cancer, assimilation for Virgo, elimination and reproduction for Scorpio and circulation for Aquarius. Pisces is also the general rules of the immune system. See my books *How to Give an Astrological Health Reading* and *Managing Your Health and Wellness* for full descriptions of the signs in medical astrology.

As stated, the sign placement of the Nodes can point to a potential area of weakness in the body with the South Node indicating a weak spot in terms of health as

it can be a point of energy loss. The South Node can refer to habitual patterns in the life that may or may not affect health. The sign placement of the South Node can be an area of the body that has been neglected or needs more attention.

Medical astrologers have varying views on the Nodes in terms of health. Judith Hill feels that the Nodes boost a planet's energy. She sees the South Node as a point of draining energy, of loss. It can also be a place of compulsive habits. The South Node can indicate addictions and compulsion as well as issues of fear, neglect and paranoia. Hill describes the South Node as a point of fears, phobias, nightmares, addictions, bad habits, poisons, and weakness of the body.

Astrologer Wanda Sellar feels that planets conjunct the South Node are more likely to indicate an ongoing or inherited condition. She refers to Ebertin who suggested that the Nodes rule the subconscious memory and the astral body. She associates the Nodes with emotional and psychological problems, the subconscious memory, inherited conditions and the joints.

Margaret Millard also quotes Ebertin that physiologically the Nodes rule the joints. The Nodes are noted for ruling connections and linkages so potentially hard aspects to the Nodes could indicate problems with the joints most likely from Mars or Saturn.

Medical astrologer Marcia Starck states: "Like the Moon, the Nodes are associated with emotional vulnerability and sensitivity. The signs where the Nodes are found and the aspects to them are very important in determining health problems."[2] She associates the sign position with an area of a potential problem. For example, the Nodes in Aries/Libra could suggest possible difficulty in the head or sinus area, the adrenal glands or kidneys. Starck feels that hard aspects from Mars, Saturn, Pluto and even from Uranus or Neptune make the case stronger. She finds that particularly in the sixth and twelfth houses, the Nodes may describe physiological and psychological problems.

Celeste Teal feels that appetite is increased if the North Node is more prominent and decreased with the South Node dominant.

The following is a partial list of some of the potential health issues associated with the North and South Nodes. Some astrologers separate the North and South Node in terms of weakness, yet it would appear that both are subject to stress when involved in difficult planetary aspects or from transits or progressions. Although the South Node is a weaker point, problems can involve both Nodes. Furthermore, the chart examples that follow seem to suggest that conjunctions to the South Node are the most difficult in terms of health.

Health Associations for the Nodes in the Signs

Aries: toothache, neuralgia, vertigo. heat stroke, pressure in eyes, wounds in head, glaucoma, burns, aneurysm, weak blood vessels in brain, weak eyesight, weak upper teeth, blindness

Taurus: mucous buildup in the Eustachian tubes and throat, vocal cord polyps, wax in ears, hyperthyroid, food addictions, tooth decay, poor hearing, poor diet, hypothyroid, weak vocal cords

Gemini: asthma, bronchitis, nervous troubles, TB, injuries to arms, hands, mental problems, epilepsy, weak arms, insufficient lung capacity, sensitive respiratory system, speech impediments

Cancer: breast tumors, stomach cancer, uterine fibroids, emotional problems, weak stomach, depression, sensitive breasts, infertility, miscarriage, genetic conditions, environmental toxins

Leo: in general, the North Node is aided by vitality of the Sun. Eye troubles, heart trouble, weakness in back or heart, weak eyesight, insufficient spinal nerve-sheath

Virgo: bowel trouble, spasm, intestinal growths, allergies, liver or pancreatic cancer, appendicitis, hyperactive immune reaction. sluggish liver, pancreatic insufficiency, blood sugar problems, intestinal parasites, hypochondria. An individual with the North Node in Virgo may be more health conscious.

Libra: kidneys and bladder sensitive points, sugar addiction, gout, lumbago, insufficient kidney action, hormonal disturbance, sugar addiction

Scorpio: piles, stones, uterine fibroid, gout, toxemia, excessive sexual urge, impacted colon, hemorrhoids; jock itch, parasites in colon, sepsis, miscarriage, boils, bacterial infection

Sagittarius: thighs and buttocks sensitive points, blood disorder, gout, growth in hip region, multiple sclerosis, palsy, sciatica, neuromuscular diseases, weakness in hips or legs, arterial insufficiency, jet lag, accidents through carelessness

Capricorn: problems with the knees, melanoma, moles, warts, fungus, weak nails, tooth decay, insufficient mineral absorption in bones, malnutrition, eczema, skin disease, heavy metal poisoning, especially lead; sensitive skin, mineral deficiencies, poor peristalsis, osteoporosis, poor posture

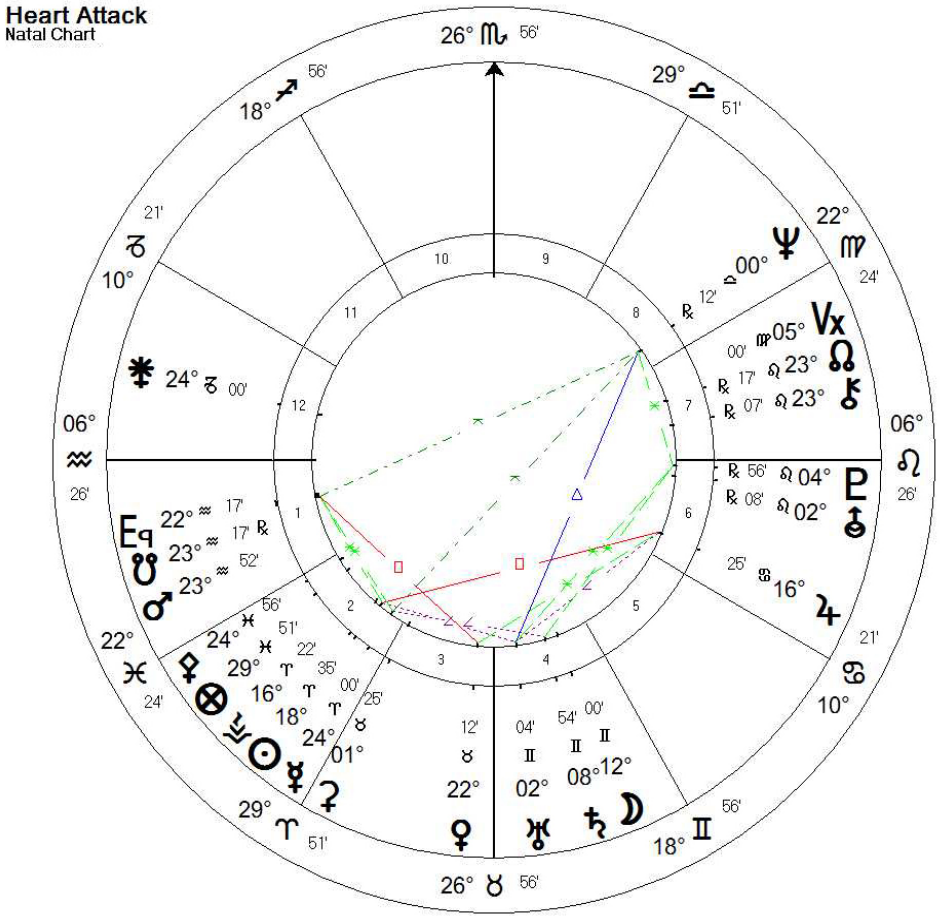
Aquarius: affect on blood pressure—high or low, weird blood diseases, nervous disorders, illness of blood, venous insufficiency, poor circulation, weak or sensitive ankles, edema, anemia

Pisces: corns, bunions, foot deformity, arthritis of feet, lymphatic cancer or swellings, auto immune disorders, contagious blood borne diseases, chemical imbalance in the blood, weak feet, foot and shoe problems, parasites, depression, addiction, poisons in blood and lymph, weak immune system, delusion. Sensitive to pollution. An individual with the North Node in Pisces can be a healer.

The sign placement of the Nodes alone would not be enough to indicate a serious health disorder. Rather, it would be part of an astrological signature for a particular disorder. One may be more prone to sensitivity or weakness in terms of the signs of the Nodes. Cornell felt that the health influence of the Nodes are similar to Saturn and are more difficult when falling on personal points in the chart. The anatomical relationship of the sign placement of Saturn is considered to be a weak area in the body as it gets the least blood supply. That part of the body needs to be nourished. Potentially, the same

thing could be said about the sign placement of the South Node. Cornell also said to consider the Nodes of all the planets, the Nodes of Mars, Jupiter etcetera. He felt that a planet further from the ecliptic is less harmful to disease and stressed the importance of checking its latitude.

Let's examine the chart of a heart attack victim who has the Nodes in Leo Aquarius—heart and circulation.[3] The South Node falls in the first house of the physical body which can be a weakening influence in terms of health. We will come back to this chart when we discuss Mars connections to the Nodes.



There can be health matters when the Nodes fall on the Ascendant, MC or other vital point in the chart. The chart of deceased actor Christopher Reeve is a good example.[4] Reeve was thrown from a horse on May 27, 1995 during an equestrian

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diane L. Cramer, M.S. is a certified (Level IV, NCGR) consulting astrologer, lecturer and teacher in all aspects of astrology in New York City. She is an expert in the various disciplines of astrology including natal chart interpretation, long-term forecasts, solar return interpretation, chart comparison, and chart rectification. She specializes in writing and instructing on medical astrology and nutrition and has published four books: Managing Your Health & Wellness (Llewellyn), How to Give an Astrological Health Reading (AFA), Dictionary of Medical Astrology (AFA) and Medical Astrology: Let the Stars Guide You to Good Health (Jove Press). She prepares health readings based on the natal chart.

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