

The Reflex Areas for Hands and Feet



Module 5 The reflex areas for hands and feet

In this module the learner will discover how to map the areas of the feet and hands for a reflexology treatment. They will be able to study the maps to see where the reflex zones are within the hands and the feet.

The learner will:

- Be able to understand the reflexology zones and areas are on the foot and the hand
- Have an ability to map the foot and hand to give a reflexology treatment

If you look at your hands or your feet what do you see? Hands and feet no doubt.

Now ask a reflexologist what they see, and they will tell you that they see all the parts and organs of the body. This module is going to teach you how to read the hands and feet as a reflexologist does and to understand where the reflex points are.

Beginning with the feet; - there is a right foot and a left foot, a dorsal view and a plantar view.

Sit on a chair and place your bare feet flat on the ground. Looking at the feet from this angle you are looking at the dorsal view or the top of your feet. There are numerous reflex points in this area of the foot and each one has a name, a position and a reflex point.

The underneath of the foot is called the plantar view. This part of the foot contains most of the reflex points, however there are points all over

the feet and the hands.

Each area on the foot or the hand represents its corresponding area within the body. For instance, the big toe is representing the head. Within the big toe you will discover a lot of reflex points. Some are difficult to reach as they are small therefore it is almost impossible to work on only that point. When this happens, the reflexologist will work the area around and including the point.

Reflexology is a holistic therapy and holistic means whole. Therefore, when a client chooses to have a reflexology treatment they are not receiving just pain relief for a painful knee or treatment which will help to control an upset stomach, when they have a reflexology treatment they are receiving so much more.

Imagine a client has persistent backache. The reflexologist looks at this one problem and devises a plan of how they can help to control the back pain. Within this plan they know that they have to control other areas too for instance:

1. The treatment begins by calming and relaxing the client. If the client is calmer and more relaxed they are going to loosen their tight muscles and reduce tension.
2. The client discusses their problems or issues with their therapist which helps to relieve some of the burden of having the problems. By talking to someone else the problem seems less severe.

3. The therapist works the whole foot to begin with to loosen muscles and also releases many of the hormones which are associated with happiness and a good sense of wellbeing.
4. The therapist works on the areas of the foot which correspond to the problems within the clients back. They also work the adrenal glands, the head reflex points, the spine reflex area and the neck. All these areas reduce tension and release some of the pain within the back.
5. The client leaves feeling relaxed, calm, happier, confident that the treatment they have received will help and hopefully in less pain.

It isn't easy to read a reflexology chart but the more you practice it the easier it will become. You will also see many images of charts on the internet or in books which will concern you as they differ a lot. Many of them are the same but you just have to use your training and practice and you will instantly know where on the foot the points are no matter what size the foot it.

It is easier to work on a foot where the toes are flatter and the foot is larger. Toes that are curled under make it difficult for you to work the sinus reflexes, however, if the toes are straight it is easy to work them.

As you work on many different feet you will notice how they do differ. Some toes are larger than others, some people have crossed over toes, bunions, no nails, hard skin, high arches, low arches, flat feet, the list is endless. This is what makes it interesting, you will never feel that the job is monotonous!

Take time to study the maps and work out where areas are. Practice on

your own feet to begin with as you will get used to handling a foot. This way you can adjust the amount of pressure that you feel is needed especially in certain areas that are more sensitive than others.

As you work on your feet, use the thumb walking technique to discover areas of your foot which seem painful, give you discomfort or don't feel pleasant. Then look at the maps and find which area it is. Do not be alarmed! If you feel a tenderness within the kidney for instance, this doesn't mean that you have something sinister, it could mean that you have not drank enough water, are on a period if you are female, had too much alcohol the night before or that you are just applying a little too much pressure to a sensitive area.

Also you need to feel for crystals. Different therapists have explained the feeling that they get when they touch the area that needs attention, some say that:

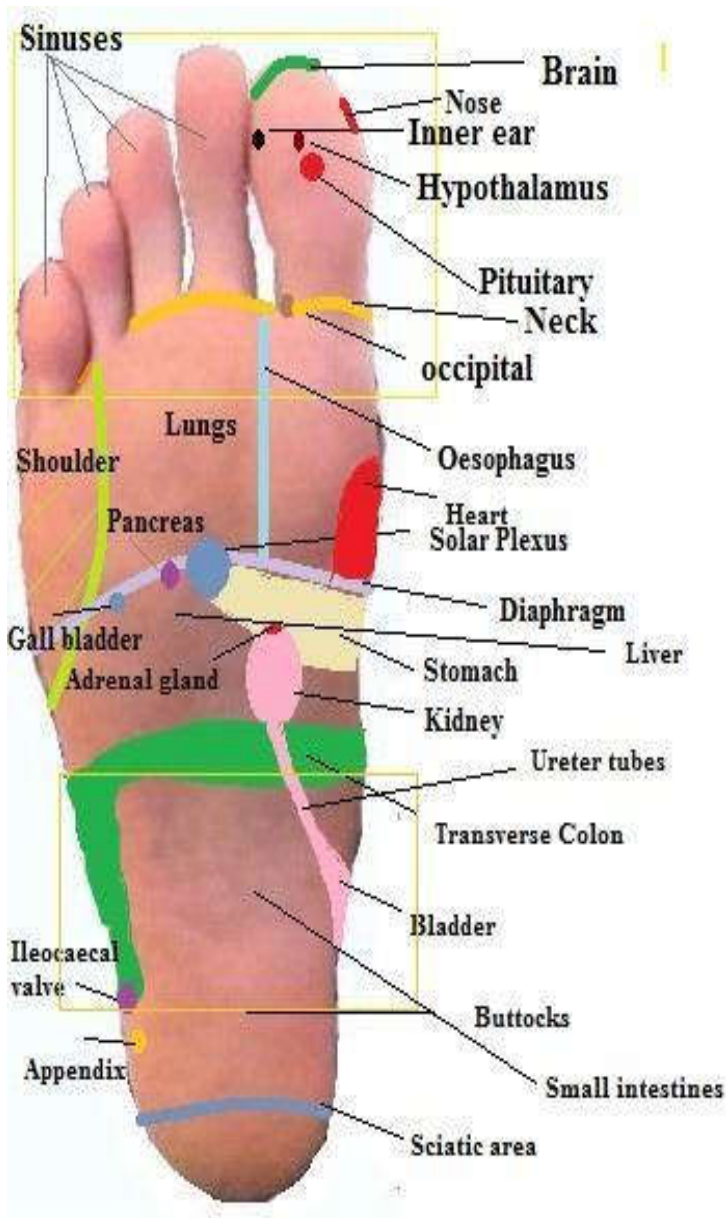
It feels like grains of sand under the skin It feels like rice under the skin

I can feel tiny little bubbles that need to be popped It feels like bubble wrap Or It feels like the stuffing from a beanbag.

Whatever you think it feels like, you will know when you have found an area where there is a problem that needs to be worked at.

As you practice your techniques you need to work on as many people as possible and you will have many volunteers. The more problems a person has the better it is for you. Ask them what their illness or problem is and see if you can feel this on their foot or hand. The feet are so much more sensitive to the treatment and you will discover more areas or that it is easier to find them by working on the foot.

Take a look at the maps and study them intensively. When you feel confident enough to progress to working on feet or hands, work each section at a time as this will not seem too overwhelming.



Try not to work the whole foot or hand in one session as this will either confuse you or cause you to lose confidence. Work on an area and as soon as you feel that you have understood it, go onto another one. Take it step by step and when you are working on others, ask them to give you feedback at all times.

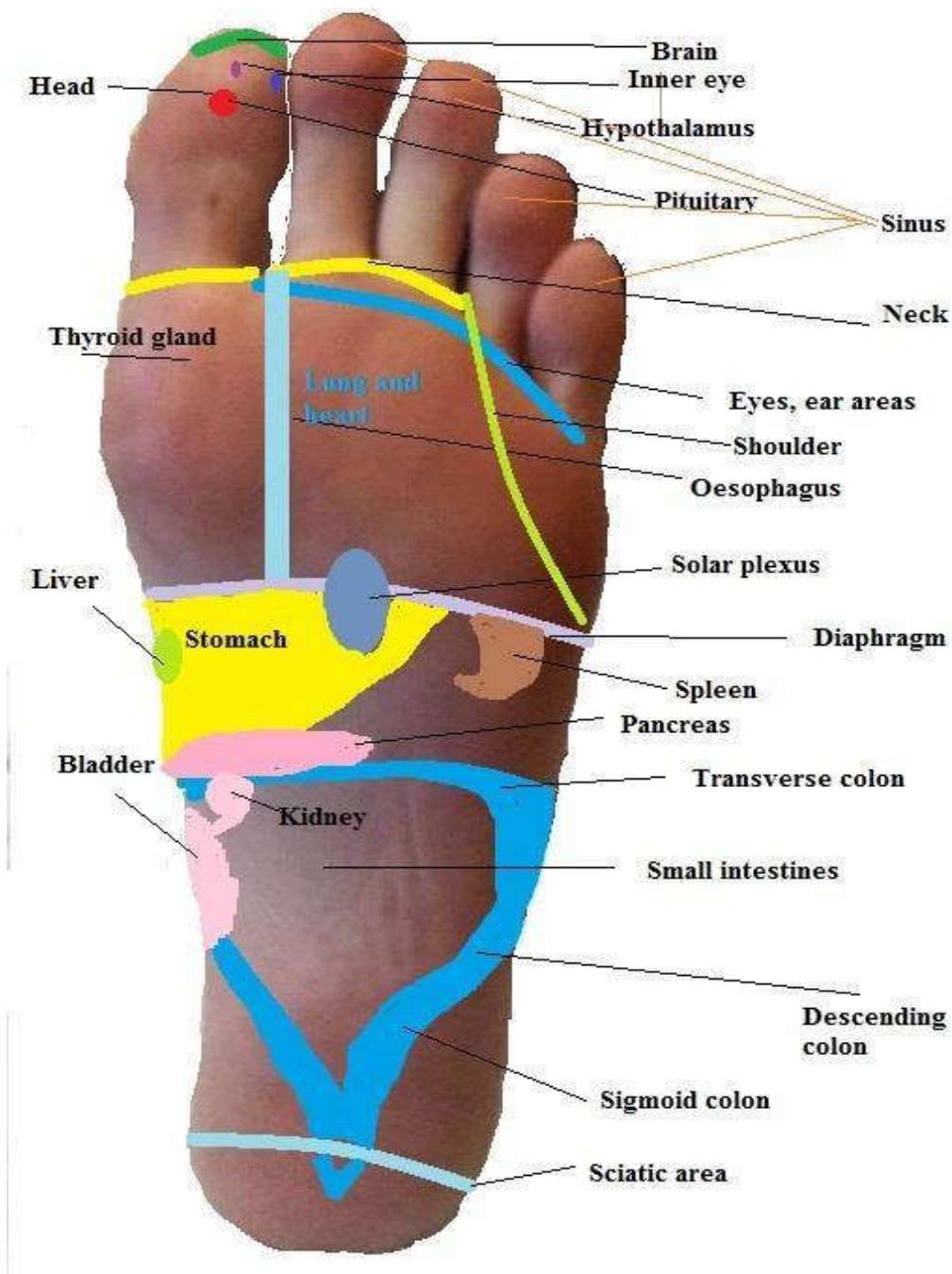
You will need to have as much communication as possible as this helps you to understand.

Keep a notebook and pen next to you so that you can record all of your findings and comments that your volunteers have made. This helps you to build a picture of the person and also gives you more confidence in understanding where to work on a person for a specific ailment or condition.

This is the right plantar view of the foot.

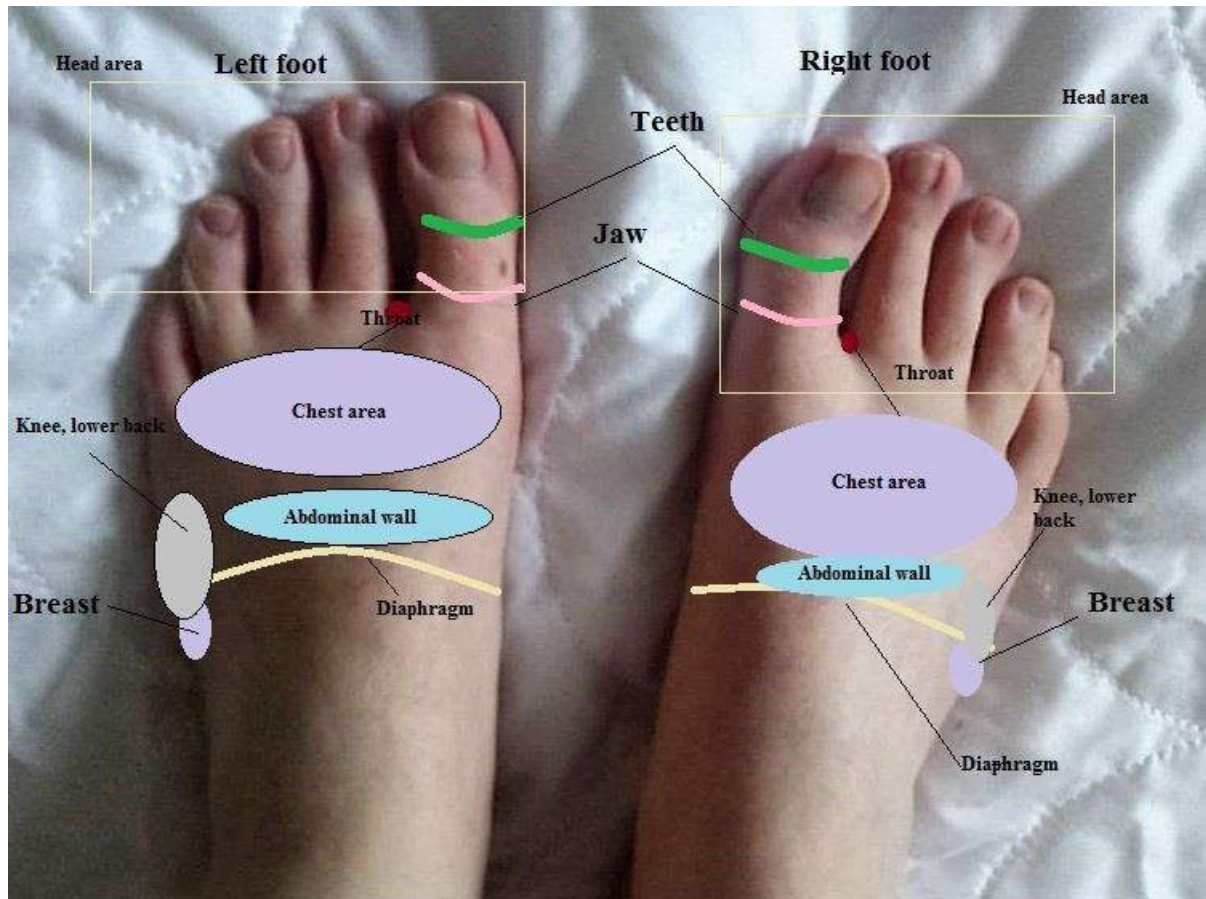
The right foot has some areas which do not contain the same reflex points as the left foot and vice versa. Some reflex points join with others such as the bottom of the colon is the ileocecal valve. The kidney and stomach reflexes are close together so don't put too much pressure when working on either of these reflex points in case one of them is extra sensitive.

This is the left plantar view of the foot



The right plantar foot contains similar reflex points as the left foot but some areas are larger, others are smaller.

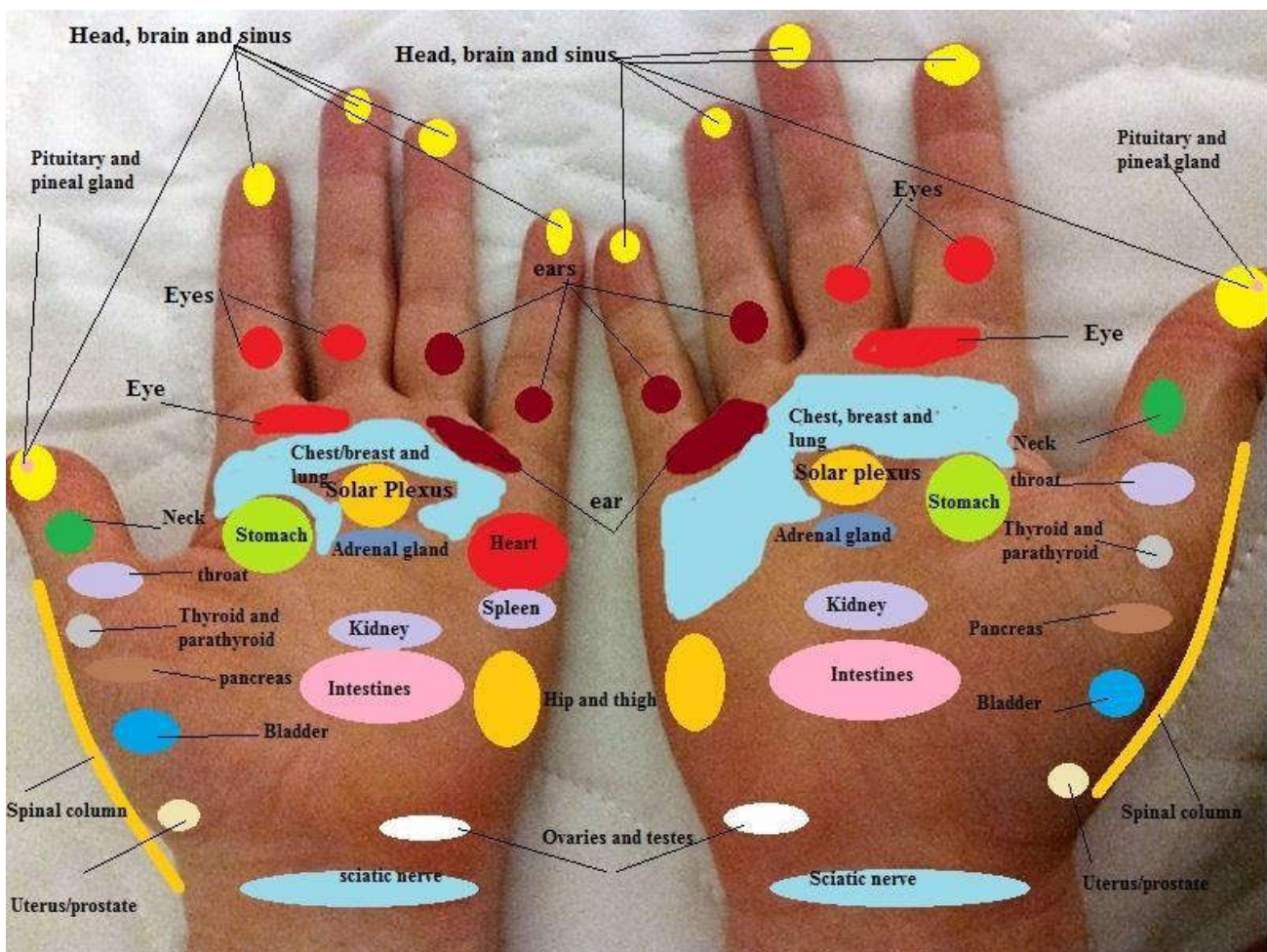
The dorsal view of both feet



You can work on the top or dorsal side of the feet in the same way as you do the underneath or plantar view. As you can see, there are areas on both sides which correspond to areas within the body. There may be some clients who will not want you to touch the underneath of their feet as they are extremely ticklish. This does make the job harder for the therapist but it doesn't mean that you cannot give a treatment at all. There will be areas which you are

reason you can still give them reflexology on their hands. Some people say that it is not as beneficial as working on the feet whereas others say that they receive a better treatment by working on the hands. If a client only has one foot or some of their toes are missing from their feet, then you can incorporate both hand and foot reflexology. Discuss this with your client and work out a plan which is best suited to both of you.

The palmer view of the hands



As with foot reflexology, the underneath or palmer side contains a lot more reflex points than the dorsal side. It is more difficult to work on a person's hands than it is their feet as the areas are much smaller. However, this doesn't mean that it is impossible to do so. The larger the client's hands the easier it is to work on them. Take small movement when working on the hands and try to include all the reflex points that are required for the treatment.

Practice this on your own hands many times before you work on a client. As with the feet, make notes of anything that you feel within the reflex points and also if you experience any pain or discomfort. If you do, check the hand map to see which area this is connected to.

It may look a little overwhelming at the moment seeing all the different areas on the feet which need to be worked on but as you practice this will become easy for you.