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Medicalia Online: ψυγμός and related terms

A. LSJ ⁹1940 s.v.

ψυγμός, ó, *chilliness, dampness*, Porph. *Abst.* 1.28, Vett. *Val.* 127.5 (pl.). **2.** *cold fit of an ague, or rigor caused by poison*, Ruf. *ap. Orib.* 8.24.17, Dsc. 5.11, Gal. 11.519, Poll. 4.186; cf. **ψυχμός**. **II.** *drying-place*, σαγηνῶν LXX *Ez.* 26.5, 14: ψ. ἀλιέων Pap. in *Hermes* 40.548; also ψ. γναφέων *PTeb.* 86.45, 51 (ii B. C.); εἰς ψυγμὸν ἐργάταις *PSI* 4.332.27 (iii B. C.); τῷ συμψήσαντι τὸν ψυγμόν *PPetr.* 2p. 110 (iii B. C.); ἐφ' ὃν ἔχομεν ἐν τῷ ψυγμῷ σὺν τῷ ἀχύρῳ κνῆκον *PRyl.* 69.9 (i B. C.). **III.** *refreshment, ἔψυξαν* ἔαυτοὺν ψυγμούς LXX *Nu.* 11.32.

ψυχ-μός, ó, later form for ψυγμός, Man. 2.443 (signf. I.2).

Rev. Suppl. s.v.: II, add ἔψυξαν ἔαυτοὺν ψυγμούς LXX *Nu.* 11.32

III delete the section

B. Medicalia Online

Structure of the lemma

Short definition

Linguistic commentary

Testimonia

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Bibliography: Lexicon entries & Secondary literature

1.1 Select testimonia in translation

[1] Diocl. Fr. 183a.39-55 van der Eijk (cited in Paul Aeg. *Epit. Med.* I 100.3 = CMG IX.1, 69-70 Heiberg) ὅταν δέ τι περὶ τὸν θώρακα μέλλῃ γίγνεσθαι, τούτων τι προσημαίνειν εἴωθεν· ἵδρως ἐπιγίγνεται εἰς ὅλον τὸ σῶμα καὶ τὸν θώρακα, καὶ τὴν γλῶτταν παχεῖαν ἔχειν· πτύουσιν ἀλυκὰ ἢ πικρὰ ἢ χολώδη· ὑπὸ τὰς πλευρὰς ἢ ὡμοπλάτας ἀλγήματα γίγνεσθαι δίχα προφάσεως, χάσμαι συνεχεῖς, ἀγρυπνίαι, πνιγμοί, δίψος ἐξ ὕπνου, ἀηδῶς ἔχειν τὴν ψυχήν, ψυγμοὶ στήθους καὶ βραχιόνων, χειρῶν τρόμος, βῆχες ξηραί. (...) τοῖς δὲ καταφρονοῦσι τῶν τοιούτων σημείων τάδε εἴωθεν ἐπιγίγνεσθαι τὰ ἀρρωστήματα· πλευρῖτις, περιπνευμονία, μελαγχολία, πυρετοὶ ὄξεῖς, φρενίτις, λήθαργος, καύσος λυγμώδης.

"When a condition is about to develop in the chest, one of these signs forewarn of it: sweat in the entire body and chest, and swollen tongue; salty, bitter or bilious spit; pain without obvious cause below the ribs or the shoulder blades; continuous yawning; sleeplessness; choking; thirst upon waking; disgust; freezing of the chest and arms; trembling of the hands; dry coughs. (...) The following ailments attack those who ignore this sort of signs: pleurisy, inflammation of the lungs, atrabiliousness, acute fever, phrenitis, lethargy, or burning fever attended with hiccup."

[2] Dsc. V 11. See also ps.Dsc. *Ther.* 4

Θ α λά τι ον ὕδωρ δριμύ, θερμαντικόν, κακοστόμαχον, κοιλίας ταρακτικόν, ἄγον φλέγμα. θερμὸν δὲ καταντλούμενον ἐπισπᾶται καὶ διαφορεῖ, ἀρμόζον τοῖς περὶ νεῦρα πάθεσι (...). διαφορεῖ καὶ πελιώματα πυριώμενον, καὶ πρὸς τὰ τῶν θηρίων δήγματα, ὅσα τρόμους καὶ ψυγμούς ἐπιφέρει, μάλιστα δὲ σκορπίων καὶ φαλαγγίων καὶ ἀσπίδων (...)



"Sea water: it is pungent, warming, sets the stomach and the bowels in motion, and incites phlegm. Warm water poured over is absorbed and dissipates, being suitable for the affections of the nerves/sinews (...). It also dissipates the livid spots, used for vapour baths, and is used against bites of beasts, those which cause shivering and chilling/ rigour, mostly the bites of scorpions, spiders and asps (...)"

[3] Ruf. πάση οὐρανού (cited in Orib. *Coll. Med.* VIII 24.17 = CMG VI 1.1, p. 272 Raeder).

καὶ ἔλαιον δ' ἐπὶ πάσης φλεγμονῆς καθ' ἑαυτὸ ἀρμόζει ἐνιέμενον, καὶ ἐφ' ὃν ἀσθένεια περὶ τοὺς τόπους ἔστι, καὶ ἐφ' ὃν γίνονται στρόφοι· διαλυτικώτερον δὲ μᾶλλον τῶν πνευμάτων ἔστι, πηγάνου ἥψημένου <ἐν> αὐτῷ ἡ κυμίνου ἡ ἀνήθου ἡ δαφνίδων, ὅτε καὶ τοῖς ἀπὸ ψυγμῶν πυρέσσουσιν ἀρμόζει.

Oil, infused, is suitable for every kind of inflammation, in cases of localised feebleness as well as in cases of colic. For it dispels flatulence when rue or cumin or dill or laurel has been cooked in it, being also suitable for feverish patients having a chill.

[4] P.Oxy. Hels. 46.15-19 (I/II) Business letter

οὐ γὰρ ἡδυνήθην ἐπὶ τοῦ παρόντος γράψαι οὐδενὶ διὰ τὸ ἀπὸ νόσου ἀναλαμβάνειν καὶ ψυγμοῦ μεγάλου. καὶ μόγις ἡδυνήθη(ν) καὶ ταῦτα γράψαι βασανι[ό]μενος

"I have not been able to write to anyone on the present matter because I am recovering from an ailment and a great cold. Even this I have been able to write with difficulty being in torment ..."

[5] P.Oxy. LXXIII 4959.3-10 (II) Letter of Ammonius to his parents regarding the health of his brother, Theon (other trasl.: *ed.pr.*; Arzt-Grabner & Kreinecker, *Light from the East* 2010, 22f.)

ἐξήρκει μὲν καὶ τὰ Θέωνος τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ γράμματα | δι' ὃν ὑμεῖν (Ι. ὑμῖν) ἐδήλου ὅτι ψυγμῶι ληφθεὶς ἐκ | βάθους καὶ ἐκλύσει τοῦ σώματος [καὶ] ἐν ἀγωνίᾳ ποιήσας πάντας ἡμᾶς οὐ τῇ τυχούσῃ, διὰ τοὺς θεοὺς αὐτῆς ὡρας ἀνέλαβεν καὶ τέλεον ἀνεκτήσατο, ὥστε καὶ λούσασθαι αὐτῆς ἐκείνης τῆς ἡμέρας καὶ μηδὲν ἔτι αὐτῷ τοῦ συμβάντος ἐνκατάλειμμα (Ι. ἐγκατάλειμμα) εἶναι.

"The letter of my brother Theon has hopefully been sufficient to let you know that having been seized by a chill arising deep inside and by bodily feebleness – something which caused us all a good deal of anxiety – with the help of the gods he recovered instantly and was totally restored so that he could even take a bath in that very same day and that no trace of what happened to him has remained."

[6] Gal. *Simpl. med. temp. ac facult.* II 20-21 (11.518-520 K.)

οὔτε γὰρ ἀπλῶς εἰ θερμὸν, ἡ ψυχρὸν, ἡ ξηρὸν, ἡ ύγρον ἐστιν ἔκαστον τῶν φαρμάκων ζητοῦμεν (...), ἀλλ' ὅπως ἔχει πρὸς ἀνθρώπινον σῶμα. (...) πῶς μὲν οὖν ἀν τις ἔλαιον ἐργάζηται τοιοῦτον λέλεκται καὶ πρόσθεν· πῶς δ' ἀν τις ἀπλῶ νοσήματι προσφέροι, νῦν εἰρήσεται, τοσοῦτον ἀναμνησάντων ἡμῶν πρότερον, ὡς ἐν ταῖς τῶν νοσημάτων διαφοραῖς ἐδείκνυτο, τινὰ μὲν ἐπὶ τὸ θερμότερον ἐκτετράφθαι σώματα χωρὶς κακοχυμίας τινὸς ἡ στήθους ἡ σπλάγχνου φλεγμονῆς, ὕσπερ ἐν ταῖς σφιδραῖς ἐγκαύσεσιν εἴωθεν γίγνεσθαι, τινὰ δὲ ἐπὶ τὸ ψυχρότερον, ὡς ἐν τοῖς καλουμένοις ἡδη συνήθως ὑπὸ πάντων ἀνθρώπων ψυγμοῖς. ἐν δὴ ταῖς τοιαύταις διαθέσεσιν ἔλαιον προσφέρων ἐξευρήσεις ἐναργῶς εἴτε θερμαίνειν ἡμᾶς πέφυκεν εἴτε καὶ ψύχειν. (...) || τοῖς ἐψυγμένοις δὲ σαφῶς οὐδὲν εἰς ὠφέλειαν ἡ βλάβος ἐξ ἔλαιου χρίσεως ἀποβαίνει. ὦ καὶ δῆλον ὡς εἰ καὶ θερμαίνειν ἡμᾶς πέφυκεν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔτι γε σφιδρῶς ἡ ἐναργῶς, ὕσπερ ὁητίνη καὶ πίττα καὶ ἄσφαλτος.

"For we do not simply investigate whether a medicament belongs to the warm, cold, dry or moist ones (...), but how it interacts with the human body (...) I have already spoken of how oil is to be prepared. I will now explain how it should be applied in cases of simple afflictions after a brief reminder that, as it has been demonstrated in the section/work concerning the differences between diseases, some bodies have grown with a greater tendency to warmth (unless the humours are in an unhealthy state or there is an inflammation



of the chest or the spleen) as in cases of acute burning fits, while others are more inclined towards chilliness, as in cases of the affections nowadays commonly called chills (*psygmoi*). If oil is offered to the patient in one of these conditions, one will find out clearly whether it is its nature to warm us up or to cool us down (*psychein*). (...) whereas for the persons affected by a chill no clear benefit or damage is to be observed when oil is smeared on. This indicates that, although its nature is to warm us up, it does not effect this to a great degree or clearly as do resin, pitch and bitumen."

[7] Gal. *Comp. med. sec. loc.* 20.2 (13.353 K.)

πρὸς ἰσχιάδας καὶ ψυγμοὺς Τγιεινοῦ Ἰππάρχου· βοτάνην Ἰβηρίδα, ἣν τινες καλοῦσι λεπίδιον ἢ ἀγριοκάρδαμον, ἀνελόμενος τὴν ώζαν αὐτῆς κόψον καὶ στέατι χοιρείῳ συμμαλάξας εἰς τρόπον ἐμπλάσματος ἐπιτίθει κατὰ τοῦ ἀλγοῦντος τόπου ἐπὶ ώζας τρεῖς, εἴτα πέμπτε εἰς βαλανίνειον. (...)

"Against ischias and muscular stiffness, of (Hygieinus?) Hipparchus: dig up the root of pepperwort, called by some lepidion or wild cardamum, cut it, work it into a plaster by softening it together with pig's suet and apply on the aching part for three hours. Send then the patient to a bath-house ..."

[8] Pollux IV 186 (256 Bethe): (...) φρύκη, ψυγμός ψῦξις, [φρύξ FS], [[φρίττειν A], ἐψῦχθαι κατεψῦχθαι BC]], όγιος, ἡπίαλος. (...)

[9] Vett. Val. 4.20

Κρόνος Αφροδίτη (...) οἱ δὲ καὶ ἐπιβουλεύονται ἡ φαρμάκων πεῖραν λαμβάνουσιν καὶ τῶν ἐντὸς ὀχλήσεις ὑπομένουσιν, ἀσθενείας τε καὶ ψυγμοῖς καὶ ρευμάτων ἐπιφοραῖς περιπίπτουσι

When Cronus is in Aphrodite some (...), while others are targets of plots, are receive a taste of drugs/poison, suffer internal discomforts or fall into weakness, chills or rheumy dicharges (...)

[10] *De Herb.* 92-94

κισσίον τόδε πάντες ἐπὶ χθόνα ναιετάοντες
ἀνθρωποι κλήζουσι λελίσφακον, οἱ δέ τε θεῖον.
λύει γὰρ ψυγμὸν κακοτέρομονα βῆχά τ' ἀνιγρήν

Kission, called *lelispakos* by all people on earth, while some qualify it as *theion*. For it dispels the cold, which ends with difficulty (or: badly), and the burdensome cough.

[11] Eutechn. *Paraphr. in Nic. Alex.* 16 Geymonat

μήκωνος δὲ τῆς ἐν κεφαλῇ φερούσης τὸ σπέρμα οἱ τοῦ ὅποῦ πεπωκότες πάσχουσι τοιάδε· καθυπνοῦσι πολλά, ἔπεισι τὰ ἀρθρα αὐτῶν ψυγμός, τοὺς ὄφθαλμοὺς κεκλεισμένους ἔχουσι, ἴδροῦσιν ἀθρόον καὶ δυσωδες (...)

Those who have drunk the juice of the poppy, the seeds of which are in its head, suffer the following: they sleep long, chill develops in their limbs, they keep their eyes shut and their sweat is profuse and smelly.

[12] Orib. *Coll. Med.* VIII 24.17 (CMG VI 1.1, p. 272 Raeder, Rufus of Ephesus). See also *Syn. ad Eust.* I 19.8, see [3]

[13] ps. Macar. *Serm.* 7.17

ῶσπερ γὰρ τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ σώματος πάντες μὲν ἔχουσιν, ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν ύγιη καὶ ἀσινή αὐτὴν κέκτηνται, οἱ δὲ νοσερὰν ἡ καὶ τετραυματισμένην. ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐν αὐτοῖς τοῖς πάθεσιν τοῦ σώματος πολλή τις διαφορὰ τυγχάνει· οἱ μὲν γὰρ προφανῶς τραύματα ἔχοντες ἀλγοῦσιν, οἱ δὲ τραύματα πρόδηλα μὴ ἔχοντες ψυγμὸν δεινὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ἔχουσιν ὥστε μηδὲ κινεῖσθαι δύνασθαι καὶ κατὰ μὲν τὸ ὄρώμενον ὡς ύγιες



είναι δοκεῖ τὸ σῶμα, κατὰ δὲ τοὺς πόνους καὶ τὴν κίνησιν τῆς ἐργασίας πολὺ χεῖρον αὐτοῦ ἔστι καὶ δυσθεράπευτον πάθος τοῦ προδήλως πεπληγμένου.

Everyone has a visible physical body — some a healthy and intact one, some an ailing body or a body with wounds. But the affections of the body exhibit great differences. For persons with evident wounds are in pain, while others lack these but suffer from severe stiffness, so that they are not able to move. And outwardly the body seems healthy, but when it comes to labour and movement in connection with work its suffering is much worse and more difficult to treat than that of the body which has visible wounds.

[14a] Hippocr. Paris. 1021

πρὸς ἀναφορὰν καὶ μυκτήρων κάθαρσιν. Τέφανον παναρίαν συντρίψεις. ἐὰν ἀπὸ ψυγμοῦ τοὺς χόθωνας αὐτοῦ θέλης καθαρίσαι, λάβε γάρου κυάθους γ' καὶ ἐλαίου κύαθον α' καὶ εἰς τοὺς χόθωνας κατὰ β' κυάθους ἔνθεσ, καὶ πατείτω. εἴτα εἰς παραπόδισμα αὐτὸν βάλε καὶ σύνδησον καὶ ἔασον αὐτοῦ κατέρχεσθαι τὸ προέκρευμα ἀπὸ τῶν χόθωνων.

To promote exhalation and cleanse the nostrils. Pound a cabbage. If you wish to cleanse his nostrils of a cold, take three cups of fish-sauce and one cup of oil. Pour two cups in each nostril, and press. Then bind the animal in the stable and leave them so that the fluid excretion runs out of the nostrils.

[14b] Hippocr. Cantabr. 49.3

πρὸς δὲ τὴν τοῦ ψυγμοῦ κύπρινον διὰ χρινῶν δίδου χρίσμασί τε θερμαντικοῖς χρῶ καὶ χαλαστικοῖς ...

To end the cold fit administer henna-oil nasally and use warming and relaxing unguents.

[14c] Hippocr. Paris. 837

ἄκοπον θερμαντικὸν τὸ παρὰ Χαρίτωνος, ποιεῖ νεφριτικοῖς, σχιακοῖς, παρετικοῖς καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἀπὸ ψυγμοῦ τι πάσχουσιν.

Application of Chariton for the relief of pain and the production of warmth; for use on patients with kidney problems, suffering from sciatica, paralysed and those affected by stiffness.

[14d] Hippocr. Berol. 78

ἄλλη μηλίνη χρυσῆ, ποιοῦσα πρὸς νεῦρα, πρὸς ἄρθρα, πρὸς ψυγμόν.

Another remedy, made of quinces, a golden one; for use on muscles, joints and against stiffness.

[15] Suda 1085 Adler s.v. μινθώσομεν. See also Schol. in Ar. Plut. 313

(...) ἐπειδὴν δὲ οἱ τράγοι ψυγμῷ περιπέσωσιν, εἰώθασιν οἱ αἰτόλοι λαμβάνειν τὴν κόπρον αὐτῶν καὶ χρίειν αὐτῶν τοὺς μυκτήρας καὶ οὕτω τῇ δυσωδίᾳ πταρμὸν κινεῖν· τούτῳ δὲ τῷ τρόπῳ λύειν τὸ πάθος· ὁ γάρ πταρμὸς θεραπεύει τὸ πάθος. (...)

When the billy-goats fall ill with a chill, the goat-shepherds have the habit of taking their dung and smear their nostril to incite sneezing because of the malodour. In this way they treat the affection. For sneezing heals this affection.

[16] Sch. GKd in Nic. Ther. 43 Crugnola

(a.) <μελανθία> (...) ἔστι δὲ καὶ πότα δυναμένη ψυγμὸν ἀπελάσαι, εἴ τις τρίψας τοῖς προσενέγκῃ τῇ χρινῇ

Black cumin (*melanthion*) is a plant which has the power to dispel the chill, if one pounds it and applies it thrice to the nose.