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An Investigation into the Knowledge of Trait Body Elements (*Dhātu Chao Ruean*) Based on Thai Traditional Medicine Theory

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KEYWORDS Focus Group Discussion. In-depth Interview. Literature Review. Qualitative Research. Traditional Knowledge. Traditional Medicine

ABSTRACT *Dhātu Chao Ruean* is a diagnostic tool integral to the treatment and promotion of health, firmly grounded in the principles of Thai traditional medicine. The primary objective of this research was to aggregate, analyse, synthesise, and summarise knowledge related to *Dhātu Chao Ruean*. The study employed a qualitative research design, incorporating data collection in three methodological stages, that is, a literature review, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The research findings revealed consistency in the qualitative results across all three methods, specifically pertaining to *Dhātu Chao Ruean*. The conclusions suggested that *Dhātu Chao Ruean* is subdivided into seven components, which can be further categorised into two groups based on determining factors and duration, namely, Innate *Dhātu Chao Ruean* (*Dhātu Chao Ruean Kerd*) and Current *Dhātu Chao Ruean* (*Dhātu Chao Ruean Patjuban*). This study provides foundational knowledge that can potentially spearhead the development of a standard diagnostic framework for *Dhātu Chao Ruean*.