Qiu Baoguo’s Experience in Treating Consumptive Syndromes after Radio-Chemotherapies

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Radiotherapy and chemotherapy are the important modern medical therapies for malignant tumors, yet they can also bring about serious local and systemic toxic side reactions so to decrease the patient’s life quality, manifested by a series of consumptive symptoms. Having engaged in the combined work of Chinese and western medicine for nearly 50 years, the research fellow Qiu Baoguo in Henan Provincial Academy of TCM has developed his unique views on the TCM study of consumptive syndromes. The author of this essay had once the fortune to follow Dr. Qiu in clinic, and specially would like to introduce in the following Dr. Qiu’s experience in treating consumptive syndromes after radio-chemotherapies for patients with malignant tumor.

Invasion of the Body by Toxic Pathogens, and Deficiency of Zang-Fu Organs

Dr. Qiu thinks that it is tumor toxin that causes the generation of tumor in the human body. The generation of toxin is due to the invasion of the body by six exogenous pathogenic factors, internal injury caused by seven emotional changes, irregular food intake, and over strain and stress, resulting in dysfunction of the zang-fu organs, abnormal circulation and transportation of qi, blood and body fluid, which further leads to qi stagnation and blood stasis, accumulation of turbid phlegm, and consumption and deficiency of vital-qi, and, in prolonged cases, the accumulated pathogens in the body can develop into toxin, leading to the growth of tumor. Radio- and chemo- therapies can treat tumor by means of radioactive rays and cytotoxic drugs acting on the tumor cells, which can be considered as a method of combating poison with poison. The tumor toxin accumulating inside the body can be involved outward in the bone, skin and muscles; and inwardly in the five zang and six fu organs, a very deep location of the disease. Besides, the elimination of exuberant toxic pathogens resulting from long-term accumulation often needs repeated radiotherapy or chemotherapy, or the combination of both. However, the toxicity of radio-chemotherapy can injure the body as well, disturb qi and blood, and affect the zang-fu organs, resulting in consumptive syndromes. At the early stage of radio-chemotherapy, there can be signs indicating qi-insufficiency of the lung and spleen, such as lassitude, sweating and aversion to wind, nausea, and poor appetite; and further symptoms indicating deficiency of both qi and yin, such as fatigue and reluctance to talk, shortness of breath after exertion, low and weak voice, dry mouth and lips, dysphoria with feverish sensation in chest, palms and soles, yellow urine and constipation, red tongue with little coating, and deficient-thready-rapid pulse. In prolonged cases, there can be signs indicating consumption and deficiency of the liver and kidney, such as asthenia and emaciation, dizziness and tinnitus, alopecia, blurred vision, and soreness and weakness of the low back and lower limbs. In severe cases, there can be symptoms of the spleen and kidney yang deficiency and qi and blood deficiency, such as pale complexion, aversion to cold and cold limbs, low and weak voice, sallow skin without lustre, cold pain in the back, loose stool, and predawn diarrhea. If such symptoms occur as coma and clonic convulsion, irritability and delirium, dry
mouth and constipation, red tongue with no coating, and thready-rapid pulse, the case can be analyzed as exhaustion of yin and excess of toxin, a dangerous sign of the disease beyond cure. Therefore, according to Dr. Qiu's opinion, consumption and deficiency of the vital-qi after radio-chemotherapy and incomplete elimination of pathogenic toxin contribute to the basic pathogenesis of the consumptive syndromes, with deficiency of the vital-qi including deficiency and injury of qi, blood, yin and yang, and injury of the lung, spleen, liver and kidney. The pathogenic toxin can be classified into such as toxin of blood stasis, heat toxin and damp toxin, which exists in the whole course of the tumor diseases. In clinic, syndromes are various, making the pathologic change a mixture of deficiency and excess, the pathogenesis more complicated and the treatment more difficult.

**Strengthening the Body Resistance, Tonifying the Deficiency, and Building up the Acquired Foundation**

To treat consumptive diseases, Dr. Qiu thinks that strengthening the body resistance and tonifying the deficiency should be taken as the basic principles of treatment. The ancient medical classic *Treatise on Treatment of Consumption* (理虚元鉴) says: “The lung is a predominant organ involving in a yin-deficient syndrome, the spleen in a yang-deficient syndrome, and the kidney stores essence. Therefore, to treat deficiency, three basic organs should be taken into consideration, namely the lung, spleen and kidney.” *Treatise on the Spleen and Stomach* (脾胃论) also points out: “Internal injury of the spleen and stomach can lead to all kinds of diseases, and the existence of stomach-qi ensures life, and absence of stomach-qi leads to death.” Dr. Qiu thinks that although the consumptive syndromes after radio-chemotherapy can be caused by dysfunction and deficiency of several internal organs and deficiency of qi, blood and body fluid consumption, deficiency of the spleen and stomach are the fundamental root cause because the spleen and stomach are the acquired foundation after birth, and the source of production of qi and blood. Once the spleen-qi is deficient, essence will fail to be transformed, and qi and blood cannot be supplemented for nourishment. The five zang organs will all be affected, qi and blood will become deficient when the fundamental organs are injured, hence the occurrence of all kinds of diseases. In addition, in clinic, most of the patients receiving radiotherapy or chemotherapy have the symptoms of dysfunction of the digestive system, such as nausea, vomiting, poor appetite, abdominal distention, and loose stool. In view of this, Dr. Qiu stresses that to treat consumptive syndromes due to radio-chemotherapy, the most important thing to do is to strengthen the spleen and replenish qi. Modern research has also proved that the method of strengthening the spleen and replenishing qi can not only help tumor patients regulate their immunologic function, strengthen the immune surveillance function, and improve the activity of natural killer cells in the body; but also intervene cancer cell proliferation and activate tumor metastasis suppressor gene, so as to resist tumor and prevent recurrence and metastasis of tumor. For strengthening the body resistance and tonifying deficiency, Dr. Qiu would like to use those Chinese herbal medicine proved by modern research effective to strengthen body resistance and improve the body immunity and antitumor activity, such as Huang Qi (黄芪 Radix Astragali), Dang Shen (党参 Radix Codonopsis), Bai Zhu (白术 Rhizoma Atractylodis Macrocephalae), Shan Yao (山药 Rhizoma Dioscoreae), Bei Sha Shen (北沙参 Radix Glehniae), Mai Dong (麦冬 Radix Ophiopogonis), Shi Hu (石斛 Herba Dendrobii), Bie Jia (鳖甲 Carapax Trionycis), Nu Zhen Zi (女贞子 Fructus Ligustri Lucidi), Han Lian Cao (旱莲草 Herba Ecliptae), and Gou Qi Zi (枸杞子 Fructus Lycii). For regulating the spleen and stomach, Dr. Qiu often uses the modified *Shenling Baizhu San* (参苓白术散 Modified Powder of Genseng, Poria and Atractylodes) to build up the spleen and tonify qi. For indigestion and epigastric fullness, Shan Zha (山楂 Fructus Crataegi), Hou Pu (厚朴 Cortex Magnoliae Officinalis), Mai Ya (麦芽 Fructus Hordei
Germinatus), and Shen Qu (神曲 Massa Fermentata Medicinalis) are often added; for diarrhea, Rou Dou Kou (肉豆蔻 Semen Myristicae), lian Zi (莲子 Semen Nelumbinis), and Chi Shi Zhi (赤石脂 Halloysitum Rubrum) are added; for abdominal pain, Bai Shao (白芍 Radix Paeoniae Alba), and Yan Hu Suo (延胡索 Rhizoma Corydalis) are added; for discomfort regurgitation, Zuo Jin Wan (左金丸 Coptis-Evodia Pill) combined with Wu Zei Gu (乌贼骨 Endocnchacea Usta) are added; for nausea and vomiting, and frequent hiccups, the modified Xiao Banxia Tang (小半夏汤 Minor Decoction of Pinellia) can be combined; for those with yin-deficiency symptoms such as dry mouth with preference to drink, constipation, and red tongue with little coating, the modified Zengye Tang (增液汤 Decoction for Increasing Fluid) and Yiwei Tang (益胃汤 Decoction for Nourishing the Stomach) are often used to nourish the stomach and generate fluid, including Sheng Di Huang (生地黄 Radix Rehmanniae), Xuan Shen (玄参 Radix Scrophulariae), Bei Sha Shen (北沙参 Radix Glehniae), Mai Dong (麦冬 Radix Ophiopogonis), Lian Qiao (连翘 Fructus Forsythiae), and Chen Pi (陈皮 Pericarpium Citri Reticulatae); and for symptoms due to deficiency of both qi and blood, such as pale complexion, pale lips and lustrous less skin, the modified Bazhen Tang (八珍汤 Eight-Treasure Decoction) and Danggui Buxue Tang (当归补血汤 Angelica Decoction for Nourishing Blood) combined with E Jiao (阿胶 Colla Corii Asini) and He Shou Wu (何首乌 Radix Polygoni Multiflori) are often applied for strengthening the source of production of qi and blood.

**Animal Drugs and Blood-tonifying Drugs for Replenishing Essence and Marrow**

After radio-chemotherapy, part of the patients may have hematopoietic disorder of the bone marrow, manifested by the symptoms of blood and kidney deficiency, such as general weakness, dizziness and blurred vision, pale or sallow complexion, loss of hair, soreness of waist and weakness of the low back and knees, amenorrhea, or impotence, pale tongue proper with little coating, and thready-forceless pulse. Clinically, the treatment based on replenishing qi, strengthening the spleen and nourishing blood usually does not produce good effects. In Dr. Qiu’s view, this is due to deeper invasion of pathogenic toxin, which injures the liver and kidney, leading to further injury of the bone marrow, and consumption of qi and blood. Therefore, the principle of treatment should be strengthening the spleen and nourishing the kidney, and replenishing essence and bone marrow. The modified Shiquan Dabu Tang (十全大补汤 All-inclusive Grand Tonic Decoction), Zuogui Wan (左归丸 The Kidney-Yin-Nourishing Bulus), Yougui Wan (右归丸 The Kidney-Yang-Reinforcing Bulus), and Heche Dazao Wan (诃子大造丸 Restorative Placenta Pills) can be used, including Huang Qi (黄芪 Radix Astragali), Ren Shen (人参 Radix Ginseng), Shu Di Huang (熟地黄 Radix Rehmanniae Preparata), Gou Qi Zi (枸杞子 Fructus Lycii), Nu Zhen Zi (女贞子 Fructus Ligustri Lucidi), He Shou Wu (何首乌 Radix Polygoni Multiflori), Huang Jing (黄精 Rhizoma Polygonat) and He Shou Wu (阿胶 Colla Carpi Asini), E Jiao (龟甲胶 Colla Carpi Asini), Gui Jia Jiao (龟甲胶 Colla Carapacis et Plastri Testudinis), Bie Jia (鳖甲 Fructus Psoraleae) for nourishing the liver and kidney, such as Yin Yang Huo (淫羊藿 Herba Epimedii), Tu Si Zi (菟丝子 Semen Cuscutae) and Bu Gu Zhi (补骨脂 Fructus Psoraleae) to warm up and reinforce yang. For patients who do not respond to the above prescription, Dr. Qiu will prescribe animal drugs and blood-tonifying drugs to supplement and nourish their consumed essence and marrow. He often uses Lu Jiao Jiao (鹿角胶 Colla Cornus Cervi), E Jiao (阿胶 Colla Corii Asini), Gui Jia Jiao (龟甲胶 Colla Carapax Trionycis), Zi He Che (紫河车 Placenta Hominis) and milk for tonifying essence and bone marrow, and promoting the generation of qi and blood. Since these drugs are heavy tonics, which can easily cause stagnation in the
spleen and stomach, Dr. Qiu would add Sha Ren (砂仁 Fructus Amomi) and Chen Pi (陈皮 Pericarpium Citri Reticulatae) to regulate the stomach-qi, so as to tonify but not to cause stagnation to obtain better therapeutic effects.

**Strengthening the Body Resistance and Eliminating Pathogenic Factors Simultaneously, and Combining Disease-Differentiation with Syndrome-Differentiation**

Patients after cancer surgery and radio-chemotherapies would usually have the primary-qi greatly injured, and qi and blood consumed. Although the tumor mass has already been removed or decreased, there still exist in the body the turbid phlegm, blood stasis and toxic heat, a condition of mixture of deficiency and excess. As is said by Ye Tianshi that ‘although the stove is off with smoke, there is still spark in the ash’. Therefore, when strengthening the body resistance, they must try to eliminate the pathogenic factors, so as to prevent recurrence or metastasis of the tumor. Based on TCM syndrome-differentiation, combined with modern research, Dr. Qiu would use, according to different kinds of tumor, anti-tumor and tumor-suppressing Chinese drugs for eliminating the pathogenic toxin. These Chinese drugs include drugs for eliminating heat and toxic materials, and softening the hard masses, or drugs having special anti-tumor and tumor-inhibiting effects, such as Shi Jian Chuan (石见穿 Herba Salviae Chinensis) and Wei Ling Xian (威灵仙 Radix Clematidis) for esophagus cancer; Bai Hua She She Cao (白花蛇舌草 Herba Hedyotis Diffusae), Bai Ying (白英 Herba Solani Lyrata), and Mi Hou Li Gen (猕猴梨根 Radix Actinidiae Argutae) for gastric cancer; Ba Yue Zha (八月炸 Fructus Akebiae Australis), Ling Xiao Hua (凌霄花 Flos Campsis), and Tu Bie Chong (土鳖虫 Eupolyphaga seu Steleophaga) for liver cancer; Yu Xing Cao (鱼腥草 Herba Houttuyniae Cordatae), Mu Hu Die (木蝴蝶 Semen Oroxyli), and Tu Bei Mu (土贝母 Rhizoma Bolbostemmae) for lung cancer; Ye Ju Hua (野菊花 Flos Chrysanthemi Indici), Pu Gong Ying (蒲公英 Herba Taraxaci), and Chuan Shan Jia (穿山甲 Squama Manitis) for mammary cancer; Mao Zha Cao (猫爪草 Radix Ranunculi Ternati) and Huang Yao Zi (黄药子 Rhizoma Dioscoreae Bulbiferae) for tumor on the head and neck; Mu Tou Hui (墓头回 Radix Patriniae Scabrae), and Shi Shang Bai (石上柏 Herba Selaginella Doederleinii) for cervical tumor; Ban Bian Lian (半边莲 Herba Selaginella Doederleinii) for cervical tumor; Ban Bian Lian (土茯苓 Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae) for bladder tumor, Ku Shen (苦参 Radix Sophorae Flavescentis), Quan Shu (拳参 Rhizoma Bistortae), and Yi Yi Ren (薏苡仁 Semen Coicis) for large intestine tumor. For those patients with excessive damp-heat and turbid toxin, Dan Nan Xing (胆南星 Arisaema cum Bile), Yi Yi Ren (薏苡仁 Semen Coicis), and Tu Fu Ling (土茯苓 Rhizoma Smilacis Glabrae) can be added; for those with excessive toxic heat, Bai Hua She She Cao (白花蛇舌草 Herba Hedyotis Diffusae), Qi Ye Yi Zhi Hua (七叶一枝花 Rhizoma Paridis), Ban Bian Lian (半边莲 Herba Selaginella Doederleinii), and Ban Zhi Lian (半枝莲 Herba Scutellariae Barbatae) can be added; and for those with excessive toxic blood stasis, Tao Ren (桃仁 Radix Persicae), Hong Hua (红花 Flos Carthami), Shui Zhi (水蛭 Hirudo), Tu Bie Chong (土鳖虫 Eupolyphaga seu Steleophaga), San Leng (三棱 Rhizoma Sparganii), E Zhu (莪术 Rhizoma Bistortae), and Dan Shen (丹参 Radix Salviae Miltiorrhizae) can be added. Some other drugs proved by modern researches with good anti-tumor and tumor-inhibiting effects can also be used, such as Shan Ci Gu (山慈菇 Pseudobulbus Cremastrae), Bi Hu (壁虎 Gekko Swinhonis), She Mei (蛇莓 Herba Duchesneae), Gan Chan Pi ( 干蟾皮 dried skin of toad), and Pao Chuan Shan Jia (炮穿山甲 baked Squama Manitis).

**Sample Cases**

**Case 1:** Pancreatic cancer after surgery and chemotherapy. A male patient, 48 years old, paid his first visit on May 8, 2003. The patient got sharp pain in the right abdomen in October 2002, followed by appearance of yellow eyes and skin. He was diagnosed as having cancer of head of pancreas by CT examination, and was then hospitalized and
received operation for pancreatic cancer. After surgery, the biopsy of the diseased area reported cellular cancer of pancreatic duct. He then received chemotherapy for 5 courses, after which the abdominal pain and jaundice disappeared. Then he came to Dr. Qiu for further treatment. The patient presented with a fat body figure, which was getting thinner, loss of hair, sallow complexion, and listlessness. He also complained of lassitude and asthenia, poor appetite, dry mouth and lips, shortness of breath while walking, inability to put his lower limbs up, and feverish sensation in the palms and soles. He had a red tongue proper with little coating, and deep-thready pulse. The TCM differentiation for the patient was internal accumulation of damp-heat, and deficiency of both qi and yin. The treatment was given based on the principle of replenishing qi and nourishing yin, eliminating heat and clearing away toxic materials, removing blood stasis and resolving hard masses. The prescription: Sheng Huang Qi (生黄芪 Radix Astragali)30g, Bei Sha Shen (北沙参 Radix Glylnea)15g, Mai Dong (麦冬 Radix Ophiopogonis)15g, Xuan Shen (玄参 Radix Scrophulariae)15g, Shu Di Huang (熟地黄 Radix Rehmanniae Preparata)15g, Yi Yi Ren (女贞子 Semen Coicis)15g, Dang Gui (当归 Radix Angelicae Sinensis)12g, Bai Shao (白芍 Radix Paeoniae Alba)12g, Bai Ying (白英 Herba Solani Lyrati)10g, and E Zhu (莪术 Rhizoma Curcumae)12g, added. He kept on taking this prescription for 45 doses. On his fourth visit, the patient said that he had had his physical strength restored with no more abnormal symptoms. He came on May 5, 2005 for reexamination, which showed that his health was in good condition.

Note: Pancreatic cancer falls into the TCM category of ‘mass in the abdomen’, ‘abdominal pain’, and ‘jaundice’, which results from accumulation of pathogenic toxic damp-heat, stagnation of qi and blood stasis. After chemotherapy, this patient got deficiency of both qi and blood further. Therefore, in the prescription, these drugs were used such as Huang Qi (生黄芪 Radix Astragali), Bei Sha Shen (北沙参 Radix Glylnea), Xuan Shen (玄参 Radix Scrophulariae), Mai Dong (麦冬 Radix Ophiopogonis), Shu Di Huang (熟地黄 Radix Rehmanniae Preparata), Bai Shao (白芍 Radix Paeoniae Alba), and E Zhu (莪术 Rhizoma Curcumae) for replenishing qi and tonifying blood, and nourishing yin to promote generation of body fluid; Hong Teng (红藤 Caulis Sargentodoxae), Long Kui (龙葵 Herba Solani Nigri), and Shi Jian Chuan (石见穿 Herba Salviae Chinensis) for eliminating heat and toxic materials; Pao Chuan Shan Jia (炮穿山甲 baked Squama Manitis), Gan Chan Pi (干蟾皮 dried skin of toad)10g, Bai Ying (白英 Herba Solani Lyrati)10g, and Long Kui (龙葵 Herba Solani Nigri)10g, which were made into decoction and taken one dose daily for 30 doses. On his second visit, the patient said that after taking the above decoction, the symptoms of lassitude and asthenia, loss of hair and dry mouth were reduced. He presented with a dark-red tongue with thin coating. He was asked to continue taking the original prescription for another 30 doses. On his third visit, the patient told the doctor that he had got his symptoms greatly relieved. He had no more lassitude and asthenia, and could manage his daily life and have gentle exercises. The feverish sensation in the palms and soles disappeared. But he still had occasional abdominal distention. His tongue was dark-red with thin coating, and the pulse slow. The above prescription was modified with Gan Chan Pi (干蟾皮 dried skin of Toad), Hong Teng (红藤 Caulis Sargentodoxae), and Ba Yue Zha (巴厥 Fructus Akebiae Australis)15g, and Xiang Fu (香附 Rhizoma Cyperi)15g added. He kept on taking this prescription for 45 doses. On his fourth visit, the patient said that he had had his physical strength restored with no more abnormal symptoms. He came on May 5, 2005 for reexamination, which showed that his health was in good condition.

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Endothelium Corneum Gigeriae Galli) for strengthening the spleen, regulating qi and promoting digestion with good therapeutic results.

Case 2: Nasopharyngeal cancer after radiotherapy. A male patient, 69 years old, paid his first visit on June 10, 2004. The patient stated to have the right-side migraine 11 months before his visit, accompanied with nasal obstruction, bloody nasal discharge, occasional pain in the throat and posterior nasal part, and slight difficulty in swallowing. He came to the author’s hospital for treatment. The rhinoscope found on the lateral wall of the lateral top of right nasopharyngeal part a cauliflower-like tumor about 1.5 cm×2.5 cm×1.5 cm in size, with uneven surface infused with bloody spots. The pathological biopsy of the diseased area reported low grade differentiated squamous epithelial cancer of nasopharynx. The CT film showed obvious thickening of both lateral nasopharyngeal walls and the right posterior top of the nasopharynx, with soft tissues extending downward into the pharynx; and no obvious damage of the basicranial bone. The patient had received radiotherapy for three courses in the previous several months. The patient said that after the radiotherapy, headache, nasopharyngeal pain, nasal obstruction, bloody nasal discharge were alleviated; and the tumor decreased to 1.0 cm×1.2 cm×0.5 cm. At that moment, he had the symptoms of emaciation, general weakness, aversion to cold, cold hands and feet, poor sleep, and cold pain in the waist and back. The tongue proper was light-red, and the pulse thready-weak. The syndrome was differentiated as the spleen and kidney yang deficiency with interior accumulation of toxic heat. The principle of treatment was strengthening the spleen and warming yang, tonifying the kidney and replenishing marrow, and clearing away toxin and resolving the hard mass. The prescription: Ren Shen (人参 Radix Ginseng)6g, Shu Di Huang (熟地黄 Radix Rehmanniae Preparata)20g, Zhi Fu Zi (制附子 Radix Aconiti Lateralis Preparata)10g, Gui Zhi (桂枝 Ramulus Cinnamomi)10g, Tu Si Zi (菟丝子 Semen Cuscutae)10g, Shan Yao ( 山药 Rhizoma Dioscoreae)12g, Shan Zhu Yu (山茱萸 Fructus Corni)12g, Dang Gui (当归 Radix Angelicae Sinensis)12g, Gou Qi Zi (枸杞子 Fructus Lycii)12g, Shi Shang Bai ( 石上柏 Herba Selaginella Doederleinii)12g, Chao Bai Zhu (炒白术 parched Rhizoma Atractylodis Macrocephalae)12g, Shan Ci Gu (山慈菇 Pseudobulbus Cremastrae)15g, Bai Hua She She Cao ( 白花蛇舌草 Herba Hedyotis Diffusae)15g, She Mei (蛇莓 Herba Duchesneae)15g, Shan Dou Gen (山豆根 Radix Sophorae Tonkinensis)15g, Ban Zhi Lian (半枝莲 Herba Scutellariae Barbatae)15g, Lu Jiao Jiao (鹿角胶 Colla Cornus Cervi)15g (melted), and Yi Yi Ren (薏苡仁 Semen Coicis)15g, which were made into decoction and taken one dose daily for 20 doses. On his second visit, the patient told the doctor that after having 20 doses of the above prescription, his right-side migraine and pain in the throat disappeared; aversion to cold and cold limbs, and lassitude were alleviated; and cold pain in the back and waist was obviously reduced. He was asked to have another 30 doses. On his third visit, his mental state was improved, and the nasal symptoms were obviously relieved. He had less bloody nasal discharge. He could have mild exercises. The cold pain in the back and waist disappeared. But he still had difficulty in falling asleep. The tongue proper was light-red with slightly yellow coating, and the pulse thready-weak. The above prescription was modified with Zhi Fu Zi (制附子 Radix Aconiti Lateralis Preparata) left out, and E Zhu (莪术 Rhizoma Curcumae)10g, Tu Bie Chong (土鳖虫 Eupolyphaga seu Steleophaga)10g, and Suan Zao ren (酸枣仁 Semen Ziziphi Spinosae)30g added. He kept on taking the above prescription for more than 80 doses. On his fourth visit, the patient’s symptoms basically disappeared, and he could live a normal life. The nasopharyngeal tumor was decreased to 0.5cm×0.8 cm×0.5 cm in size, slightly hard in texture and slightly rough on the surface, without bloody infusion. The tongue was light-red with white coating, and the pulse thready-weak. He continued the administration of the above prescription, and his
condition was stable.

Note: After radiotherapy, the patient had consumption of the vital-qi, which was manifested as deficiency of both the spleen and kidney, and interior accumulation of toxic heat. Dr. Qiu holds that cancer should not be treated by eliminating heat and toxic materials, and resolving mass and relieving swelling at the beginning because the health condition might be further weakened. Instead, vital qi should be replenished, spleen strengthened and kidney tonified. The combined drugs for replenishing qi and strengthening the spleen such as Sheng Shai Shen (生晒参 dry Radix Ginseng) and Chao Bai Zhu (炒白术 parched Rhizoma Atractylodis Macrocephalae) with Yougui Wan (右归丸 The Kidney-Yang-Reinforcing Bulus) were used as the basic prescription, added with drugs good at eliminating heat and toxic materials such as Shan Dou Gen (山豆根 Radix Sophorae Tonkinensis), Ban Zhi Lian (半枝莲 Herba Scutellariae Barbatae), Bai Hua She She Cao (白花蛇舌草 Herba Hedyotis Diffusae), She Mei (蛇莓 Herba Duchesneae Indicae), and Shan Ci Gu (山慈菇 Pseudobulbus Cremastre); and the anti-tumor and tumor-suppressing drugs such as Yi Yi Ren (薏苡仁 Semen Coicis) and Shi Shang Bai (石上柏 Herba Selaginella Doederleinii). When the patient had his vital-qi restored, drugs for resolving the hard mass such as E Zhu (莪术 Rhizoma Curcumae Phaeocaulis) and Tu Bie Chong (土鳖虫 Eupolyphaga seu Stereophaga) were then added in the prescription.

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