Methods: We compared the meaning of meridian in WGS with that in Jagusimbeopyogyeol (JGS) of GMM.

Results: Objectivity and clearness are obtained by inserting the meridian and collateral diagram and the partially expanded diagram in WGS and JGS. The meridian song (a quatrain with seven) in WGS is placed at the beginning of the chapter, indicating its importance. Kihyeoldaso of 12 meridians is detailed in WGS so as to reduce the harmful effect when doctors diagnose, treat and prognose, and understanding the meaning of meridian is important when doctors treat carbunculosis. The symptoms of a disease are classified by parts and are shown in a diagram, which can play an important role in diagnosis.

Conclusions: WGS follows the meanings of meridian and complementary structure in JGS.

Key Words: The golden mirror of medicine; Uijongeumgam; Woegwasimbeopyogyeol, Jagusimbeopyogyeol

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jams.2012.07.011


Traditional Korean Medicine Doctors’ Awareness and Utilization of Case Reports

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Abstract

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to assess traditional Korean medicine (TKM) doctors’ awareness and utilization of case reports based on the opinion that careful observation of cases sometimes provides important information on clinical trials, especially in the field of traditional medicine research.

Methods: A questionnaire study was conducted among TKM doctors who participated in the annual continuous maintenance education (CME) held in five regions of the Republic of Korea.

Results: Almost 60% of the respondents had read case reports published in medical journals, and 67% had openly shared their clinical cases with their colleagues. Of the respondents, 18.6% had been educated on reporting cases, and only 16% had the experience of reporting cases on their own. However, 32.6% of the respondents had intentions to report cases in the future. The results showed significant differences between general physicians who hold a license but have no hospital training on case reports and board-certified TKM doctors who have experienced such training.

Conclusions: A majority of TKM doctors have read case reports but have little experience with proper training. This research found that awareness of case reports is rising in hospital training. Thus, the objective of case report education for TKM doctors who undergo hospital training should be to encourage them to write more whereas for doctors who do not experience hospital training, the objective should be to exposing them more to case reports to heighten their awareness.

Key Words: case reports; traditional Korean medicine doctors; awareness; utilization

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jams.2012.07.012


Testing of the Safety and the Effectiveness of Using Samjeong Pharmacopuncture Solution as Eye drops

Hyung-Sik Seo, Dong-Jin Lee

Abstract

Objectives: This experimental study was designed to investigate the safety and the effectiveness of Samjeong pharmacopuncture solution (SPS) manufactured by using a low-temperature extract process.

Methods: To identify the safety and the effectiveness of using SPS as eye drops, we performed applied eye irritation tests on rabbits and antibacterial tests for Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Aspergillus niger, Fusarium oxysporum, and Candida albicans. The eye irritation test was performed according to the toxicity testing regulation of the Korea Food & Drug Administration (2009. 8. 24, KFDA 2009-116). After SPS had been applied on the left eye of the rabbits, eye irritation in the cornea, iris and conjunctiva was observed on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 7th day. After SPS had been dropped on bacterial species that cause keratitis, the minimum inhibition concentration and the size of the inhibition zone were measured. The anti-bacterial potency was also measured by taking the size of inhibition zone.

Results: After SPS had been administered on the left eye of the rabbits, none of nine rabbits were found to show abnormal signs or weight changes. After SPS had been administered on the left eye of the rabbits, no eye irritation in the cornea, iris and conjunctiva was observed on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 7th day. No specific response was detected in MIC for bacterial species Staphylococcus aureus, Staphylococcus epidermidis, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Aspergillus niger, Fusarium oxysporum, and Candida albicans after SPS had been applied.
Conclusions: This study suggests that SPS is a non-toxic and non-irritant medicine that does not cause any eye irritation in rabbits, but it has no antibacterial effects on bacterial species that are well known to cause keratitis. These results suggest that more research is required on extracts from herbal medicines for treating keratitis.

Key Words: antibacterial effect; eye drops; Eye irritation; Samjeong pharmacopuncture solution (SPS)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jams.2012.07.013


Modulatory Effects of Chrysanthemi Flos Pharmacopuncture on Nitric-oxide (NO) Production in Murin Macrophagy Cells

Hwa-Young Shin, Hyun-Jong Lee, Yun-Kyu Lee, Seong-Chul Lim, Jae-Soo Kim

Abstract

Objectives: Much evidence exists that herbs have effective immunomodulatory activities. Chrysanthemi Flos (CF) is effective in clearing heat, reducing inflammation, reducing blood pressure and treating headache and is used as a pharmaceutical raw material for immune enhancers. The purpose of this study was to investigate the modulatory effect of Chrysanthemi Flos pharmacopuncture on nitric-oxide (NO) production in activating macrophages.

Methods: After a murine macrophage cell line, RAW 264.7, had been cultured in the presence of lipopolysaccharide (LPS), the immune-modulating abilities of CF were evaluated by using NO, interleukin-6 (IL-6) and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-α) production, as well as the phagocytic activity of macrophages.

Results: CF enhanced the activities of macrophages by increasing the phagocytic activity and decreasing NO production. Especially, both LPS and CF, 200 /ml, treatment could significantly reduce the NO production, but did not change the production of IL-6 on TNF-α.

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate that CF may have immunomodulatory value, especially for adverse diseases, due to increased NO production. It may also have potential for use as an immunoenhancing pharmacopuncture.

Key Words: CF; herb; immunomodulatory; macrophage; nitric-oxide (NO); RAW 264.7

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jams.2012.07.014


Influence of Prescribed Herbal and Western Medicine on Patients with Abnormal Liver Function Tests: A Retrospective Quasi-experimental Study

Ah-Ram Lee, Je-Min Yim, Won-Il Kim

Abstract

Objectives: The aim of this study was to investigate the safety and the efficacy of using Korean herbal, western and combination medicine in patients with abnormal liver function tests.

Methods: We investigated nerve disease patients with abnormal liver function tests who were treated with Korean herbal, western and combination medicine at Dong-Eui University Oriental Hospital from January 2011 to August 2011. We compared aspartic aminotransferase (AST), alanine aminotransferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and total bilirubin (T-bil) levels before and after taking medicine and excluded patients who had liver-related diseases when admitted.

Results: AST and ALT were decreased significantly in patients who had taken herbal and western medicine. AST, ALT and ALP were decreased significantly in patients who had taken combination medicine. Compare to herbal medicine, AST, ALT and ALP were decreased significantly in patients who had taken western medicine, and ALT and ALP were decreased significantly in patients who had taken combination medicine. There were no significant differences between western and combination medicine.

Conclusions: This study suggests that prescribed Korean herbal medicine, at least, does not injure liver function; moreover, it was shown to be effective in patients with abnormal liver function tests.

Key Words: drug induced; herbal medicine; liver function tests; liver injury

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jams.2012.07.015