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Identifying Chinese herbal medicine for urticaria: From a nationwide database to the clinical trial

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Urticaria is a common skin disease that has a high impact on a patient's daily life. Chinese herbal medicine (CHM) has been frequently used for treatment of skin manifestations in addition to Western medicine. The aim of this study is to analyze a nationwide prescription database to explore the most commonly used CHM for urticaria. A nationwide CHM prescription database was used, and data from ambulatory visits of patients with a single diagnosis of urticaria (ICD-9 code: 708) were identified for the study. Association rule mining was applied to explore the core formula and popular combinations of CHM for urticaria. A total of 33,355 ambulatory visits made by 12,498 patients were included in this study. On average, 6.18 CHMs were used per prescription. Xiao Feng San (XFS) and *Cryptotympana pustulata* Fabricius were the most commonly used herbal formula (HF) and single herb (SH), found in 49.44% and 24.67% of all prescriptions, respectively. XFS with *Cryptotympana pustulata* Fabricius were used most frequently in a two-combination CHM (9.95%). XFS was the core formula for urticaria since it was included in nearly all combinations prescribed for the treatment of urticaria. Based on this result, we further design clinical trial and mast cell studies for urticaria to explore the efficacy and mechanism of CHM in urticaria.

Biography

Yi-Hsuan Lin is a traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) doctor and internal specialist in the department of TCM, division of Chinese internal medicine and pediatrics, Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital (CGMH). She completed training course of Chinese and western internal medicine and thus has both certificates of western medicine internal specialists and TCM doctor. She is interested in TCM dermatology. She also has license of specialty in TCM Dermatology. She focuses her research in allergic skin disease including chronic urticaria and atopic dermatitis by using a nationwide claim database, mast cell study and clinical trials.

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