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Analysis of prescription of traditional Chinese medicine in chronic kidney disease - National Health Insurance database

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Background & Aim: Chronic kidney disease (CKD) has emerged as a global public health burden. Incidence of end stage renal disease (ESRD) was rising among adults in Taiwan. The purpose of this study is to determine the prescription commonly used by traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) physicians in the treatment of CKD by the analysis of National health insurance (NHI) database.

Methods: The data used in this study is NHI-TCM outpatient database from 2004 to 2006. We selected the CKD patients which were coded with ICD-9 diagnostic code 585 and 586. We reviewed the series of prescription and treatment schedules (CD) and outpatient prescription (OO) of these patients, and recorded the Chinese medicine health insurance code including formulas and single Chinese herbs. We calculated the frequency and percentage of the Chinese herbal formulas and single herbs used in CKD patients.

Results: 293 Chinese herbal formulas and 362 single Chinese herb were used to treat CKD. We found the top 20 of the highest percentage of prescriptions in Chinese herbal formulas as following: supplementing (10), dispelling dampness (3), harmonizing (3), clearing heat (2), precipitation (1) and rectifying blood (1). The top 20 single Chinese herbs for treatment of CKD were tonify herbs (7), quickening the blood and transforming stasis (3), clearing heat (2), disinhibiting water and percolating dampness (2), warming center (2), precipitation (1), transforming dampness (1), stanching bleeding (1) and quieting the spirit (1).

Conclusions: Prescriptions for CKD by TCM physicians were made with tonify-based formulas, accompanied by formulas for quickening the blood and transforming stasis, formulas for disinhibiting or dry dampness and formulas for clearing heat. Our study provides the basis for research to use traditional Chinese medicine in treatment of CKD, and a new thinking to make appropriate prescriptions for the treatment of CKD.

Biography

Chun-Chieh Huang currently serves as the Chief Physician in Chinese Medicine department of Taitung Christian Hospital, and the Director of Taitung County Chinese Medicine Association. He has more than 20 years of experience in using Traditional Chinese medicine, in which he is a qualified Physician and Pharmacist. He was a Lecturer and taught Chinese Medicine Nursing at Yuanpei University of Medical Technology. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD in Graduate Institute of Chinese Medicine at China Medical University.

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