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An alternative diagnostic method for determining Chronic dyspepsia in traditional medicine

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Chronic Dyspepsia (CD) is one of the most common diseases worldwide. According to the theory of Traditional Medicine (TM), CD appears to have individual differences and therefore it can be subdivided into different pattern identification (PI). CD is mainly considered the Spleen Qi (SQ) deficiency PI. SQ deficiency PI is one of the most common pattern in TM clinics. However, no diagnostic tools such as a questionnaires or medical devices have been validated in clinical studies. This study was performed to determine the reliability and validity of the 'Spleen Qi Deficiency Questionnaire (SQDQ)' for the 60 patients with CD. All participants were evaluated by filling in SQDQ and analyzing them. The internal consistency and construct validity of SQDQ were assessed using all the dataset obtained in the current study. The SQDQ showed sufficient internal consistency. Four factors from the SQDQ were extracted through explanatory factor analysis. The percentage of explained variance was 65.1%. In the distribution of PI, 68.3% and 31.7% of the participants showed to have SQ and non-SQ groups respectively. The study compared the SQDQ scores between SQ and non-SQ groups. Significant differences in most of SQDQs' items were observed between the SQ and the non-SQ groups. However, the 'emaciation', 'tongue diagnosis' and 'pulse diagnosis' illustrated no significant differences. The results suggest an alternative diagnostic approach to assess sub-patterns of CD. The proposed diagnostic method will help physicians classify patients into subgroups and the patients would benefit from more precise diagnosis and therapy.

Biography

Jihye Kim has graduated from the College of Oriental Medicine, Sangji University and received a Master's degree from the Department of Biofunctional Medicine and Diagnostics in 2013. She has joined the Korean Institute of Oriental Medicine as a Researcher in the same year. Her research interest is the prevention and diagnosis of chronic illness using traditional Korean medicine approach. She has been working as an Expert of ISO/TC249 and the Project Leader of computerized tongue image analysis system.

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