

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 72773

**Title:** Systematic Review of Yougui Pills Combined with Levothyroxine Sodium in the Treatment of Hypothyroidism

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02520738

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-10-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2021-12-03 15:41

**Reviewer performed review:** 2021-12-04 17:35

**Review time:** 1 Day and 1 Hour

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scientific quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| Language quality   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| Re-review          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                             |



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**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: ☒ Anonymous ☐ Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: ☐ Yes ☒ No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

the paper is good and well written

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**Reviewer's code:** 00503176

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Croatia

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2021-10-27

**Reviewer chosen by:** Xin Liu (Online Science Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-01-27 12:57

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-01-27 14:15

**Review time:** 1 Hour

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| Language quality   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion         | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| Re-review          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                             |

**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: [☒] Anonymous [☐] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [☐] Yes [☒] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This is a clearly and well-presented systematic review/meta-analysis that employed methods standardly employed by the Cochrane Collaboration. Therefore (although in my personal opinion Cochrane meta-analyses are not always "optimal") - I have no methodological comments. There is only one minor comment about a point that needs to be addressed in the Discussion section: all included RCTs were open-label with no-treatment control - patients received levothyroxin + T preparation vs. levothyroxin alone. By this virtue, all patients and investigators were aware of the assigned treatments. It has been shown repeatedly that in such "no-treatment-control" trials effect estimates are typically quite larger than in double-blind (placebo-controlled) trials. Although it may seem that hormone levels are objective outcomes, it is beyond doubt that awareness of treatment/no treatment may influence the levels of thyroid hormones and TSH. Also, non-blinded conditions could have (beyond doubt) affect the spontaneous subject reporting of own condition (symptoms, side-effects) or their detection by the investigators. Therefore, although the results are rather consistent and do indicate a benefit of adding T treatment to levothyroxin, there should be comment to state that, while data are strongly suggestive, it is likely that the extent of benefit is overestimated. The exact extent of the effect of T (that is separated from the effect of "awareness about the received treatment") could be only estimated in an adequately powered placebo-controlled double-blind trial.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 04153245

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** BM BCh, MD, MSc, PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Egypt

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Xin Liu (Online Science Editor)

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-01-26 16:09

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-02-03 09:17

**Review time:** 7 Days and 17 Hours

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scientific quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish            |
| Language quality   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing<br><input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection |
| Conclusion         | <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection             |
| Re-review          | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Peer-reviewer<br/>statements</b> | Peer-Review: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y ] Onymous<br>Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Y ] No |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Keywords: are the same as the title. You can use different types of words to increase the visibility of your paper in the research. The authors mentioned "incidence of hypothyroidism is rising year by year due to the increase of iodine content in the diet". Is it right?. Please, clarify it within the text. This sentence "And excessive doses are likely to induce hyperthyroidism or abnormal bone metabolism" begins with "and". it is better to be inside the sentence. No need to write Chinese terms within a paper written in English like: ". The Chinese search terms included “右归丸” (Yougui pills), “甲状腺功能减退”, “甲低”, “甲状腺功能低下”, “甲状腺机能低下”, “甲状腺机能减退”, “甲减” (hypothyroidism), and the Chinese search strategy was (“右归丸”) AND (“甲低” OR “甲状腺功能减退” OR “甲状腺机能低下” OR “甲状腺机能减退” OR “甲减” OR “甲状腺功能低下”). " The first paragraph in Discussion "Studies have shown that the combination of Yougui pills and western medicine can produce a synergistic effect, reduce the dosage and duration of hormone taking, and reduce or eliminate the adverse reactions caused by hormone taking. However, the value of Yougui pills combined with levothyroxine sodium for hypothyroidism is not clear at present. A total of 9 randomized controlled studies were included in this study, involving 936 research subjects, with 326 in the Yougui pills group and 323 in the levothyroxine sodium group. The main findings of this study are as follows: (1)" is a repetition of same meaning mentioned before. Nothing appears about the Yougui effect on young ages suffering from hypothyroidism. You may clarify it.