

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

Manuscript NO: 77540

Title: Dan Bai Xiao Formula reduces the exposure of glucocorticoids and Methylprednisolone pulse in children with lupus nephritis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 00503194

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Consultant Physician-Scientist

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Greece

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-31

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-06-07 05:45

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-14 06:15

Review time: 7 Days

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary and overall Evaluation- General Points The authors present an interesting pilot study concerning the integration of Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and western medicine in paediatric lupus nephritis. The interest lies in that this integration could prove beneficial for the management of this vulnerable population in terms of short and long term adverse effects. The study is small and NOT randomized. The title should not present the outcome. In the text the standard of care should be presented as opposed to the integrative proposed scheme with TCM formula. It is not clear why the specific Chinese herb formula was chosen as treatment Specific comments and Improvement points The whole article needs re- writing. I recommend the pilot study of Zhong LL et al (1) as reference, who tested a Chinese Herbal formula on top of standard of care. Improvement points: 1) TITLE. Suggested: Dan Bai Xiao Formula combined with glucocorticosteroids and cyclophosphamide for paediatric lupus nephritis: A pilot prospective study 2) Language: Syntax and phrase mistakes. Examples: lines 23, 24: plus and ... 3) ABSTRACT METHODS. Study pilot should be mentioned. GCS and CYC were standard of care? 4) Line 31: remission with...changed to defined as... Line 31,32 serum albumin? Renal function? Not clear 5) INTRODUCTION, Standard of care should be clearly stated. The benefit of TCM with benefits also. Reason to choose the specific formula 6) METHODS. Standard of care protocol given in detail. 7) See REF 1 as model of presentation Conclusion and Recommendation TCM has shown promising results integrated with western standard of care in lupus nephritis (ref 2). The molecular mechanisms explaining its efficacy have been investigated in part (3). This is an interesting article worth publishing, but it needs re- writing Accepted after being re-



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reviewed with major revision done based on the above References 1) Zhong LL, Bian ZX, Gu JH, Zhou X, Tian Y, Mao JC, Chen XJ. Chinese Herbal Medicine (Zi Shen Qing) for Mild-to-Moderate Systematic Lupus Erythematosus: A Pilot Prospective, Single-Blinded, Randomized Controlled Study. *Evid Based Complement Alternat Med*. 2013;2013:327245. doi: 10.1155/2013/327245. Epub 2013 May 8. PMID: 23737826; PMCID: PMC3662182. 2) Heng M, Tu J, Hao Y, Zhao Y, Tian J, Bu H, Wang H. Effects of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine for the Treatment of Lupus Nephritis: A Meta-Analysis of Randomized Trials. *Evid Based Complement Alternat Med*. 2016;2016:1502107. doi: 10.1155/2016/1502107. Epub 2016 Dec 26. PMID: 28105057; PMCID: PMC5220491. 3) Wang YJ, Li YX, Li S, He W, Wang ZR, Zhan TP, Lv CY, Liu YP, Yang Y, Zeng XX. Progress in traditional Chinese medicine and natural extracts for the treatment of lupus nephritis. *Biomed Pharmacother*. 2022 May;149:112799. doi: 10.1016/j.biopha.2022.112799. Epub 2022 Mar 9. PMID: 35279011

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Reviewer's code: 00607640

Position: Editor-in-Chief

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Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <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 <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
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Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] Anonymous [<input type="radio"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="radio"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="radio"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this paper, the authors evaluated the effects of Dan Bai Xiao Formula (DBXF) in lupus nephritis (LN) children treated with glucocorticoids and cyclophosphamide. The paper is insightful. However, two minor concerns are for your consideration. 1. It would be interesting to know the effect of DBXF alone on the treatment of LN children. 2. An editing of English language is recommended.