

Dear editors and reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewer's comments concerning our manuscript. Those comments are very helpful for us to revise and improve our paper. We have studied comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the reviewer's comments are as following (main corrections are marked in yellow):

(1) Aim: To demonstrate the effectiveness of YWXY in patients with CAG and spleen-stomach deficiency syndrome (DSSS), by alleviating histological scores, improving response rates for pathological lesions, and achieving clinical efficacy in relieving DSSS symptoms.

(2) We changed "medicine-controlled trial." to "controlled trial."

(3) **Randomization and blinding:** Sequentially numbered opaque sealed envelopes were used to store randomized numbers associated with specific drugs based on group assignments. Each envelope was assigned a unique number. When recruiting eligible patients, a researcher independently and randomly selected one envelope from a pool without knowledge of its code's meaning. Experimental conditions "1" and "2" were represented by chosen envelopes, where "1" indicated TG and "2" represented CG.

The Pharmaceutical Department marked the medicine packages with "1" or "2" codes, corresponding to YWXY + placebo or WFC + placebo respectively.

(4) **ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS**

Research background

The Yiwei Xiaoyu granules (YWXY) have been extensively utilized in clinical practice for the treatment of chronic atrophic gastritis (CAG); however, there has been a lack of scientific evaluation regarding the efficacy of YWXY.

Research motivation

We conducted a single-center, randomized, double-blind, controlled trial to serve as a foundational study for future in-depth mechanistic research while observing YWXY's clinical efficacy.

Research objectives

The effectiveness of YWXY in alleviating histological scores, response rates for pathological lesions, and the rate of disappearance of atrophy or intestinal metaplasia was evaluated to facilitate the development of innovative pharmaceuticals.

Research methods

The participants underwent targeted biopsy using narrow-band imaging (NBI) before and after treatment, which effectively eliminated personal bias in specimen selection and ensured the credibility of the research.

Research results

The findings of this study demonstrated that YWXY not only reduced the stage of Operative Link on Gastric Intestinal Metaplasia Assessment (OLGIM) classification, but also significantly alleviated the clinical symptoms in patients with deficiency syndrome of the spleen and stomach (DSSS) syndrome. However, it is important to note that the inclusion criteria solely encompassed patients with mild to moderate atrophy, necessitating further evaluation for those presenting severe atrophy of DSSS accompanied by blood stasis.

Research conclusions

We have substantiated the clinical efficacy of YWXY in treating CAG-associated DSSS through targeted NBI biopsy.

Research perspectives

The mechanism underlying the therapeutic efficacy of YWXY therapy for CAG necessitates further investigation.

(5) We have reduced the similarity rate as possible as we can(main corrections are marked in blue)

(6)We have improved the 1 Figure and 3 Tables, and provide the Figure 1 cited in the original manuscript in the form of PPT.

(7)We have upload the documents as your requirements.

Yours
Xiaojun Yang