

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 85179

**Title:** Acute exacerbation of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis treated using the Feibi recipe:  
A report of two cases

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 00607640

**Position:** Editor-in-Chief

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-04-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-04-23 09:07

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-02 06:44

**Review time:** 8 Days and 21 Hours

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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<b>Re-review</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this case report, the authors reported that two female patients diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis were complimentarily treated with traditional Chinese medicine. The paper is interesting. However, some minor concerns are for your consideration. 1. "CONCLUSIONS"- "There two cases suggest that the Feibi recipe and other Traditional Chinese Medicine therapy could be beneficial for IPF treatment." But only the Feibi recipe was used in this report. Please correct. 2. The sources of prednisone and tripterygium glycosides used are encouraged to be added. 3. The proper literature citation for Feibi recipe is encouraged to be added. 4. Abbreviations (ex. P38MAPK) should be with its full name when it firstly appears in the paper.

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**Reviewer's code:** 03612998

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-04-16

**Reviewer chosen by:** Geng-Long Liu

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-05-17 06:45

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-17 07:21

**Review time:** 1 Hour

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
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	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The Ms is aimed at describing two clinical cases of IPF patients treated with prednisone, or receiving prednisone and tripterygium glycosides, that were then treated with the Feibi. The report was of interest but this treatment is under-investigated and no molecular mechanisms underlying the potential beneficial effects have been demonstrated. The conclusion should be smoothed since this is a clinical cases report, but it has the potential to be cited since there is no therapy exist for this diseases and there is a urgent need to investigate new pathways and therapy, even in the natural context. The introduction and /or discussion section should be enriched by citing other potential therapy that act on the same pathogenic mechanisms as Feibi. A recent report suggested that feibi might act by counteracting inflammatory pathways in LPS-induced lung damage. This report should be better discussed to support their findings (Exp Ther Med . 2022 Jan;23(1):110. doi: 10.3892/etm.2021.11033. Epub 2021 Dec 2). The authors should provide thus some mechanistic pathway underlying the effect of Feibe. For example knowing TGFbeta role in the pathogenesis (Int J Mol Sci . 2018 Aug 20;19(8):2460. doi: 10.3390/ijms19082460) Moreover some new treatment has been



**Baishideng  
Publishing  
Group**

7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite  
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA  
**Telephone:** +1-925-399-1568  
**E-mail:** [bpgoffice@wjgnet.com](mailto:bpgoffice@wjgnet.com)  
<https://www.wjgnet.com>

proposed for IPF such as farnesoid X receptor agonist obeticholic acid (OCA) (J Endocrinol Invest . 2019 Mar;42(3):283-294. doi: 10.1007/s40618-018-0913-1. Epub 2018 Jun 19). This should be recognized in the introduction or discussion section. Other natural therapy has been proposed as well thus the introduction should be revised to report other therapy under evaluation for this important disease; for example Curdione, a sesquiterpene compound extracted from the essential oil of *Curcuma aromatica* Salisb, has been proven to have anti-inflammatory in lung and a repressive role in tgf beta signaling (Respir Res . 2020 Feb 19;21(1):58. doi: 10.1186/s12931-020-1300-y.). Another studied natural therapy is Paeoniflorin which is found in the root of *Paeonia lactiflora* Pall, and has been reported to have anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory properties (Acta Pharmacol Sin. 2016 Jun;37(6):794-804. doi: 10.1038/aps.2016.36. Epub 2016 May 2.)