

Reviewer #1

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 these 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).

Reply: Thank you for your advice, we added this article to the discussion part.

The authors should provide thus some mechanistic pathway underlying the effect of Feibe. For example knowing TGFβ role in the pathogenesis (Int J Mol Sci . 2018 Aug 20;19(8):2460. doi: 10.3390/ijms19082460) Moreover some new treatment has been 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 tgfbeta 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.)

Reply: Thank you for your advice, we enrich these articles to the manuscript and added them to the discussion part.

Reviewer #2

In this case report, the authors reported that two female patients diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis were complementarily 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.

Reply: We deleted "other TCM therapy"

2. The sources of prednisone and tripterygium glycosides used are encouraged to be added.

Reply: We added the sources.

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.

Reply: We added the full names.