

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** World Journal of Gastroenterology

**Manuscript NO:** 55264

**Title:** Epigastric pain syndrome: What can traditional Chinese medicine do? A randomized controlled trial of Biling Weitong Granules

**Reviewer's code:** 02567669

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Emeritus Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-08

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-05-26 15:56

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-03 19:30

**Review time:** 8 Days and 3 Hours

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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 Grade E: Do not publish
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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



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

It is quite normal that a western reviewer has some problems to understand the arguments of TCM, e.g. the importance of the different qis. However, it is interesting how a possible bridge can be built between TCM and western medicine. In the present manuscript the authors used RomeIV criteria and TCM criteria, but finally in the evaluation they focus on Rome IV criteria and a visual analogue scale. Therefore, I surmise that the conclusions drawn from this study are correct. I have only minor points of criticisms: Evidently the authors used only the dose of 5 g TID. Is there a dose-dependency of the effects? An analysis of the different components of the product and the possible modes of action are indicated. How were this data obtained? Why were Talcid used as a rescue drug? Would it be fine to perform a study comparing BLWTG with PPI?

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**Reviewer's code:** 00505467

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FRCS (Gen Surg), MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Adjunct Professor, Assistant Professor, Honorary Research Fellow, Surgeon, Surgical Oncologist

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2020-04-08

**Reviewer chosen by:** Jia-Ping Yan

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2020-05-27 08:10

**Reviewer performed review:** 2020-06-09 08:39

**Review time:** 13 Days

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<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
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<b>Re-review</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Peer-reviewer</b>	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous

statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ] Yes [Y] No

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This is a well-designed and executed double-blind trial controlling traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), a very rare fact even though TCM have been applied for centuries in large numbers of population, and there are large numbers of medical doctors in China who have deep knowledge of western medicine and methodology. I would encourage the authors to proceed with a similar trial not with placebo this time, but with drugs applied in everyday practice in western medicine, and with larger sample of patients in order to avoid subgroup analysis.

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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

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

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**Review time:** 1 Hour



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<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
<b>Language quality</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<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**

Th manuscript can now be accepted

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

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**Reviewer chosen by:** Le Zhang

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**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
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#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The authors have covered the raised issues with their response.