

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Diabetes*

**Manuscript NO:** 85187

**Title:** Effectiveness and safety of traditional Chinese medicine for diabetic retinopathy:  
A systematic review and network meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03597656

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Associate Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2023-04-17

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-04-21 20:50

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-04 07:20

**Review time:** 12 Days and 10 Hours

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 Grade E: Do not publish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

<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<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 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

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The current study addressed a really nice and important topic. However, there are some points before publication. 1. The conclusion in the abstract needs major revision and presents the final conclusion derived from the current study. 2. The search strategy for all databases should be added to the supplementary material. 3. The statistical analysis lacks of Begg's and Egger's tests. 4. In the result section, "Literature search results and basic characteristics" has presented very weak, and more comprehensive details of included studies should be presented. 5. The discussion lacks of more detail about other rehabilitation strategies for metabolic disease. Exercise training and also neuromuscular electrical stimulation may be good strategies for this concern. The authors may read and use the following papers: Rahmati M, Shamsi MM, Woo W, Koyanagi A, Lee SW, Yon DK, Shin JI, Smith L. Effects of physical rehabilitation interventions in COVID-19 patients following discharge from hospital: A systematic review. Journal of integrative medicine. 2023 Jan 20. Rahmati M, Gondin J, Malakoutinia F. Effects of neuromuscular electrical stimulation on quadriceps muscle strength and mass in healthy young and older adults: a scoping review. Physical Therapy. 2021



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Sep;101(9):pzab144. Rahmati M, Malakoutinia F. Aerobic, resistance and combined exercise training for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Physiotherapy. 2021 Dec 1;113:12-28. 6. The study limitation needs to be presented more limitations from the current study.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02446514

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** PhD

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Professor

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

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

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

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2023-05-19 19:34

**Reviewer performed review:** 2023-05-26 18:46

**Review time:** 6 Days and 23 Hours

Scientific quality	<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
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
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<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

## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors did a meta-analysis study comparing different compound used in the oral Chinese medicine used for the treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Although this is a well done work and give interesting information, some points should be revised. 1. Better explain the aim to obtain such information, since those compounds are already use in the clinical. 2. In: Population, diagnostic criteria need to meet the accepted diagnostic criteria for DR at the time of study publication. Please briefly describe. 3. In Intervention. Indicate the correct scientific name of the plant as well as characteristics / or name of the different compounds used, in order that not only the Chinese population can understand. 4. In: Outcome measures. Used only one term, ineffective or invalid. 5. Please better explain, what: Total effective rate. The total clinical efficiency after treatment and were considered as significantly effective... does it refer to all parameters analyzed? 6. In the figures, indicate the units in the ordinates and abscissa ; ie, vision Vs effective rate, levels of VEGF expression, etc. 7. Table 2, please check if in Danshen there is not group E. Also which is the compound first in the table, should be it up? 8. As a last conclusion, could the authors postulate a better treatment ; which



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compound could be most recommended; and whether it should be recommended to the different , as they call, conventional western medicine treatment.