



Comparison of Drug Combination Rules in Traditional Iranian and Chinese Medicine

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Abstract:

Background and Purpose: As the strategy defined by the WHO for traditional medicine in the years 2014-2023 focuses on extensive research, a basic scope required here is the field of compounded medicine, which is emphasized in Qarabadin-Kabir as the best sciences. By the traditional compounding medicines principles, new systems of combination drugs can be designed in which the side effects are reduced and the effectiveness is increased, so this study was performed.

Methods and Materials: This is a research on the principles of combining medicine in traditional Iranian and Chinese medicine are discussed and their similarities and differences have been discussed. For traditional Iranian medicine, we studied the book Qarabadin-Kabir of Aghili and for traditional Chinese medicine, we used the available books written in English including: “Chinese herbal formulas treatment principles and composition strategies” and “Systems biology for herbal medicine”, and the related articles from the databases including: Google Scholar, Scencedirect, Scopus, Pubmed, Nature, and Embase by the keywords of “complex herbal products in traditional medicine”, “combination of herbs”, and “composition strategy of herbal formula” in May 2015 were searched.

Results: Despite the differences in basic principles, the rules of combination drugs have many similarities between traditional Iranian and Chinese medicine. As both of them in the expression of reasons for compounding ingredients have focused on some points including mutual accentuation, mutual enhancement, mutual counteraction, mutual suppression, mutual antagonism, and mutual incompatibility. The structural model of formulations in Iranian and Chinese traditional medicine are similar and contains: active ingredients, assistants, envoys, and reformers of side effects.

Conclusion: Traditional medical treatments can help current medication by identifying the special characteristics of each component according to traditional knowledge and general properties of the final formulation, with considering the component's role based on the structural model. A wide array of research on traditional medicines can be directed as reverse pharmacology and so the philosophy of traditional combination products can be better explained.

Keywords: Production of compounding medicine, Traditional Iranian Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicines.

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