PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Clinical Cases

Manuscript NO: 77540

Title: Dan Bai Xiao Formula reduces the exposure of glucocorticoids and Methylprednisolone pulse in children with lupus nephritis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer’s code: 00503194

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Consultant Physician-Scientist

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: Greece

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2022-05-31

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-06-07 05:45

Reviewer performed review: 2022-06-14 06:15

Review time: 7 Days

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<th>Scientific quality</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Excellent</th>
<th>[ ] Grade B: Very good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade C: Good</th>
<th>[ ] Grade D: Fair</th>
<th>[ ] Grade E: Do not publish</th>
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<th>Language quality</th>
<th>[ ] Grade A: Priority publishing</th>
<th>[ ] Grade B: Minor language polishing</th>
<th>[ ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing</th>
<th>[ ] Grade D: Rejection</th>
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| Conclusion         | [ ] Accept (High priority) | [ ] Accept (General priority) | [ ] Minor revision | [ ] Major revision | [ ] Rejection |

| Re-review          | [ ] New | [ ] Yes | [ ] No | [ ] Major revision | [ ] Rejection |


SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Summary and overall Evaluation- General Points
The authors present an interesting pilot study concerning the integration of Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and western medicine in paediatric lupus nephritis. The interest lies in that this integration could prove beneficial for the management of this vulnerable population in terms of short and long term adverse effects. The study is small and NOT randomized. The title should not present the outcome. In the text the standard of care should be presented as opposed to the integrative proposed scheme with TCM formula. It is not clear why the specific Chinese herb formula was chosen as treatment.

Improvement points
The whole article needs re-writing. I recommend the pilot study of Zhong LL et al (1) as reference, who tested a Chinese Herbal formula on top of standard of care.

Improvement points:
1) TITLE. Suggested: Dan Bai Xiao Formula combined with glucocorticosteroids and cyclophosphamide for paediatric lupus nephritis: A pilot prospective study
2) Language: Syntax and phrase mistakes. Examples: lines 23, 24: plus and …
3) ABSTRACT METHODS. Study pilot should be mentioned. GCS and CYC were standard of care?
4) Line 31: remission with...changed to defined as... Line 31,32 serum albumin? Renal function? Not clear
5) INTRODUCTION, Standard of care should be clearly stated. The benefit of TCM with benefits also. Reason to choose the specific formula
6) METHODS. Standard of care protocol given in detail.
7) See REF 1 as model of presentation

Conclusion and Recommendation
TCM has shown promising results integrated with western standard of care in lupus nephritis (ref 2). The molecular mechanisms explaining its efficacy have been investigated in part (3). This is an interesting article worth publishing, but it needs re-writing. Accepted after being re-
reviewed with major revision done based on the above References  
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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: 2022-05-31

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2022-06-29 07:45

Reviewer performed review: 2022-07-04 07:15

Review time: 4 Days and 23 Hours

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

In this paper, the authors evaluated the effects of Dan Bai Xiao Formula (DBXF) in lupus nephritis (LN) children treated with glucocorticoids and cyclophosphamide. The paper is insightful. However, two minor concerns are for your consideration. 1. It would be interesting to know the effect of DBXF alone on the treatment of LN children. 2. An editing of English language is recommended.