



**PEER-REVIEW REPORT**

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Psychiatry*

**Manuscript NO:** 99737

**Title:** Wuling capsule combined with sertraline in the therapy of anxiety and depression with insomnia in adolescents

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer’s code:** 07915777

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, Doctor, Doctor

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer’s Country/Territory:** United States

**Author’s Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2024-08-26

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Editor

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2024-08-27 00:42

**Reviewer performed review:** 2024-09-03 14:12

**Review time:** 7 Days and 13 Hours

<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 Grade E: Do not publish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>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<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
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 study addresses a clear and relevant question regarding the efficacy and safety of combining Wuling capsule with sertraline in a specific patient population. Employing ISI, HAMA, and HAMD scales provides a comprehensive evaluation of the clinical symptoms. The use of the TESS scale to assess adverse reactions is also a strength, ensuring a thorough evaluation of the treatment's safety profile. The observational group showed significantly lower scores in HAMD, HAMA, and ISI compared to the control group at all assessment time points (2, 4, 6, and 8 weeks), indicating greater clinical efficacy with the addition of Wuling capsule. In addition, The TESS score, which measures adverse reactions, was significantly lower in the observational group compared to the control group ( $t = 18.239, P < 0.001$ ), suggesting that the addition of Wuling capsule may be associated with fewer adverse effects. This is a strong paper and the results presented are novel and important. It is intriguing that they have identified that Wuling capsule can further alleviate the insomnia symptoms of adolescents with anxiety and depression. Additionally, the combined treatment appears to be associated with fewer adverse reactions. Overall, this is a potentially significant paper, and the



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findings support further research into this combined therapeutic approach for adolescent patients. However there are some concerns that warrant further consideration: --While the initial sample size was reasonable, the dropout rate resulted in 40 patients per group, which may affect the generalizability of the results. The reasons for dropout are not specified, which could introduce bias. --The study evaluates outcomes over 8 weeks, which may not be sufficient to determine the long-term efficacy and safety of the combined treatment. Longer follow-up would provide more comprehensive data. --The study does not provide specific information on the composition or mechanism of action of the Wuling capsule, which is essential for understanding its potential benefits and interactions with sertraline.



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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 07915799

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD, Doctor, Doctor

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** United Kingdom

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2024-08-26

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Editor

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2024-09-01 15:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2024-09-04 11:57

**Review time:** 2 Days and 20 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>Novelty of this manuscript</b>	<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
<b>Creativity or innovation of this manuscript</b>	<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 creativity or innovation



<b>Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
<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 study aims to evaluate the clinical efficacy of Wuling capsule combined with sertraline in treating adolescents with anxiety, depression, and insomnia, while also assessing the adverse reactions associated with the treatment. The study design is a comparative, prospective study involving 95 adolescent patients who were divided into two groups: the control group (50 patients) and the observational group (45 patients). After a period of dropout, 40 patients remained in each group. The control group received sertraline combined with a placebo, while the observational group received sertraline combined with Wuling capsule. Both groups were treated for 8 weeks. Outcome measures included the ISI, HAMA, and HAMD scales for clinical symptoms and the TESS scale for adverse reactions. In conclusion, the study provides promising evidence that the combination of Wuling capsule with sertraline is more effective in reducing symptoms of anxiety, depression, and insomnia in adolescents compared to sertraline alone. Minor Comments: 1. The background of the abstract section is missing. Please provide information for this background section. 2. In the methods section, please provide the information about how was the sample size determined? Is the sample size



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of 40 cases each group enough for this study? 3. Please indicate whether informed consent has been obtained from the patient. 4. Are the patients in the observation group and control group randomized? Please provide a detailed description of the grouping method. 5. Please add Figure legend for each Figure, and provide a more detailed description. 6. In the method, the authors mentioned that ISI and HAMD scores were used as the basis to judge the treatment effect. While in the results section, the author first compared the efficacy of the two groups and then presented the results of other evaluations, which is a bit inappropriate. It is suggested to reverse the order. 7. The description in the result section is too simple, I would suggest to adding a conclusive description at the end of each paragraph.