# Contents

**OPINION REVIEW**

**Whipple’s operation with a modified centralization concept: A model in low-volume Caribbean centers**

Cawich SO, Pearce NW, Naraynsingh V, Shukla P, Deshpande RR

---

**REVIEW**

**Role of micronutrients in Alzheimer’s disease: Review of available evidence**

Fei HX, Qian CF, Wu XM, Wei YH, Huang JY, Wei LH

---

**MINIREVIEWS**

**Application of imaging techniques in pancreaticobiliary maljunction**

Wang JY, Mu PY, Xu YK, Bai YY, Shen DH

**Update on gut microbiota in gastrointestinal diseases**

Nishida A, Nishino K, Ohno M, Sakai K, Owaki Y, Noda Y, Imaeda H

**Vascular complications of pancreatitis**

Kalas MA, Leon M, Chavez LO, Canalizo E, Sarani S

---

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**Clinical and Translational Research**

**Network pharmacology and molecular docking reveal zedoary turmeric-trisomes in Inflammatory bowel disease with intestinal fibrosis**

Zheng L, Ji YY, Dai YC, Wen XL, Wu SC

---

**Case Control Study**

**Comprehensive proteomic signature and identification of CDKN2A as a promising prognostic biomarker and therapeutic target of colorectal cancer**

Wang QQ, Zhou YC, Zhou Ge YJ, Qin G, Yin TF, Zhao DY, Tan C, Yao SK

---

**Retrospective Cohort Study**

**Is anoplasty superior to scar revision surgery for post-hemorrhoidectomy anal stenosis? Six years of experience**

Weng YT, Chu KJ, Lin KH, Chang CK, Kang JC, Chen CY, Hu JM, Pu TW

---

**Retrospective Study**

**Short- (30-90 days) and mid-term (1-3 years) outcomes and prognostic factors of patients with esophageal cancer undergoing surgical treatments**

Shi MK, Mei YQ, Shi JL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7720</td>
<td>Effectiveness of pulsed radiofrequency on the medial cervical branches for cervical facet joint pain</td>
<td>Chang MC, Yang S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7738</td>
<td>Correlation between the warning symptoms and prognosis of cardiac arrest</td>
<td>Zheng K, Bai Y, Zhai QR, Du LF, Ge HX, Wang GX, Ma QB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7749</td>
<td>Serum ferritin levels in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and tic disorder</td>
<td>Tang CY, Wen F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7760</td>
<td>Application of metagenomic next-generation sequencing in the diagnosis of infectious diseases of the central nervous system after empirical treatment</td>
<td>Chen YY, Guo Y, Xue XH, Pang F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7785</td>
<td>Prospective single-center feasible study of innovative autorelease bile duct supporter to delay adverse events after endoscopic papillectomy</td>
<td>Liu SZ, Chai NL, Li HK, Feng XX, Zhai YQ, Wang NJ, Gao Y, Gao F, Wang SS, Linghu EQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical Trials Study**

| 7794 | Performance of Dexcom G5 and FreeStyle Libre sensors tested simultaneously in people with type 1 or 2 diabetes and advanced chronic kidney disease | Ölafsdóttir AF, Andelin M, Saeed A, Sofizadeh S, Hamoodi H, Jansson PA, Lind M |

**Observational Study**

| 7808 | Complications of chronic pancreatitis prior to and following surgical treatment: A proposal for classification | Murruste M, Kirsimägi Ü, Kase K, Veršinina T, Talving P, Lepner U |
| 7825 | Effects of comprehensive nursing on postoperative complications, mental status and quality of life in patients with glioma | Dong H, Zhang XL, Deng CX, Luo B |

**Prospective Study**

| 7832 | Predictors of long-term anxiety and depression in discharged COVID-19 patients: A follow-up study | Boyraz RK, Şahan E, Boylu ME, Korporal İ |

**META-ANALYSIS**

Rectal nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, glyceryl trinitrate, or combinations for prophylaxis of post-endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography pancreatitis: A network meta-analysis
Shi QQ, Huang GX, Li W, Yang JR, Ning XY

Effect of celecoxib on improving depression: A systematic review and meta-analysis
Wang Z, Wu Q, Wang Q

CASE REPORT

Rectal mature teratoma: A case report
Liu JL, Sun PL

Antibiotic and glucocorticoid-induced recapitulated hematological remission in acute myeloid leukemia: A case report and review of literature
Sun XY, Yang XD, Yang XQ, Ju B, Xu NN, Xu J, Zhao XC

Non-secretory multiple myeloma expressed as multiple extramedullary plasmacytoma with an endobronchial lesion mimicking metastatic cancer: A case report
Lee SB, Park CY, Lee HJ, Hong R, Kim WS, Park SG

Latamoxef-induced severe thrombocytopenia during the treatment of pulmonary infection: A case report
Zhang RY, Zhang JJ, Li JM, Xu YY, Xu YH, Cai XJ

Multicentric reticulohistiocytosis with prominent skin lesions and arthritis: A case report
Xu XL, Liang XH, Liu J, Deng X, Zhang L, Wang ZG

Brainstem abscesses caused by Listeria monocytogenes: A case report
Wang J, Li YC, Yang KY, Wang J, Dong Z

Primary hypertension in a postoperative paraganglioma patient: A case report
Wei JH, Yan HL

Long-term survival of gastric mixed neuroendocrine-non-neuroendocrine neoplasm: Two case reports
Woo LT, Ding YF, Mao CY, Qian J, Zhang XM, Xu N

Percutaneous transforaminal endoscopic decompression combined with percutaneous vertebroplasty in treatment of lumbar vertebral body metastases: A case report
Ran Q, Li T, Kuang ZP, Guo XH

Atypical imaging features of the primary spinal cord glioblastoma: A case report
Liang XY, Chen YP, Li Q, Zhou ZW

Resection with limb salvage in an Asian male adolescent with Ewing’s sarcoma: A case report
Lai CY, Chen KJ, Ho TY, Li LY, Kuo CC, Chen HT, Fong YC

Early detection of circulating tumor DNA and successful treatment with osimertinib in thr790met-positive leptomeningeal metastatic lung cancer: A case report
Xu LQ, Wang YJ, Shen SL, Wu Y, Duan HZ
Contents

7973  Delayed arterial symptomatic epidural hematoma on the 14th day after posterior lumbar interbody fusion: A case report
Hao SS, Gao ZF, Li HK, Liu S, Dong SL, Chen HL, Zhang ZF

7982  Clinical and genetic analysis of nonketotic hyperglycinemia: A case report
Ning JJ, Li F, Li SQ

7989  Ectopic Cushing’s syndrome in a patient with metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma: A case report
Ishay A, Touma E, Vornicova O, Dodik-Gad R, Goldman T, Bisharat N

7994  Occurrence of MYD88L265P and CD79B mutations in diffuse large b cell lymphoma with bone marrow infiltration: A case report
Huang WY, Weng ZY

8003  Rare case of compartment syndrome provoked by inhalation of polyurethane agent: A case report
Choi JH, Oh HM, Hwang JH, Kim KS, Lee SY

8009  Acute ischemic Stroke combined with Stanford type A aortic dissection: A case report and literature review
He ZY, Yao LP, Wang XK, Chen NY, Zhao JJ, Zhou Q, Yang XF

8018  Compound-honeysuckle-induced drug eruption with special manifestations: A case report
Zhou LF, Lu R

8025  Spontaneous internal carotid artery pseudoaneurysm complicated with ischemic stroke in a young man: A case report and review of literature
Zhong YL, Feng JP, Luo H, Gong XH, Wei ZH

8034  Microcystic adnexal carcinoma misdiagnosed as a “recurrent epidermal cyst”: A case report
Yang SX, Mou Y, Wang S, Hu X, Li FQ

8040  Accidental discovery of appendiceal carcinoma during gynecological surgery: A case report
Wang L, Dong Y, Chen YH, Wang YN, Sun L

8045  Intra-ampullary papillary-tubular neoplasm combined with ampullary neuroendocrine carcinoma: A case report
Zavrtanik H, Lucar B, Tomažič A

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

8054  Commentary on "Primary orbital monophasic synovial sarcoma with calcification: A case report"
Tokur O, Aydin S, Karavas E
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Network pharmacology and molecular docking reveal zedoary turmeric-trisomes in Inflammatory bowel disease with intestinal fibrosis

Lie Zheng, Yong-Yi Ji, Yan-Cheng Dai, Xin-Li Wen, Shi-Cheng Wu

BACKGROUND

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a complex chronic IBD that is closely associated with risk factors such as environment, diet, medications and lifestyle that may influence the host microbiome or immune response to antigens. At present, with the increasing incidence of IBD worldwide, it is of great significance to further study the pathogenesis of IBD and seek new therapeutic targets. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) treatment of diseases is characterized by multiple approaches and multiple targets and has a long history of clinical application in China. The mechanism underlying the effect of zedoary turmeric-trisomes on inducing mucosal healing in IBD is not clear.

AIM

To explore the effective components and potential mechanism of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD with intestinal fibrosis using network pharmacology and molecular docking.
pharmacology and molecular docking techniques.

**METHODS**

The chemical constituents and targets of *Rhizoma zedoary* and *Rhizoma sanarum* were screened using the TCMSP database. The GeneCards database was searched to identify targets associated with intestinal fibrosis in IBD. The intersection of chemical component targets and disease targets was obtained using the Venny 2.1 online analysis platform, and the common targets were imported into the STRING 11.0 database to construct a protein interaction regulatory network. A “zedoary turmeric-trisomes-chemical composition-target-disease” network diagram was subsequently constructed using Cytoscape 3.7.2 software, and the topological properties of the network were analyzed using the “Network Analysis” plug-in. Gene Ontology (GO) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) enrichment analyses of the common targets were performed using the DAVID 6.8 database to elucidate the mechanism of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD. Subsequently, molecular docking of the compounds and targets with the highest intermediate values in the “zedoary turmeric-trisomes-chemical composition-target-disease” network was performed using Sybyl-x 2.1.1 software.

**RESULTS**

A total of 5 chemical components with 60 targets were identified, as well as 3153 targets related to IBD and 44 common targets. The protein-protein interaction network showed that the core therapeutic targets included JUN, MAPK14, CASP3, AR, and PTGS2. The GO enrichment analysis identified 759 items, and the KEGG enrichment analysis yielded 52 items, including the cancer pathway, neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction, hepatitis B, and the calcium signaling pathway, reflecting the complex biological processes of the multicomponent, multitarget and multipathway treatment of diseases with zedoary turmeric-trisomes. Molecular docking showed that the compound bonded with the target through hydrogen bond interactions and exhibited good docking activity.

**CONCLUSION**

This study identified the potential mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease using network pharmacology and molecular docking technology, providing a scientific basis for further expansion of their clinical use.

**Key Words:** Network pharmacology; Molecular docking; Zedoary turmeric trisomes; Inflammatory bowel disease; Intestinal fibrosis

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**Core Tip:** Intestinal fibrosis is one of the common complications of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Finding effective drug treatment is an important issue that needs to be solved at the moment. The mechanism of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD with intestinal fibrosis can be predicted through network pharmacology and molecular docking, so as to provide theoretical reference for it to better play its therapeutic role.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Intestinal fibrosis is a common complication of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)[1]. In severe cases, intestinal obstruction leads to a decrease in the quality of life of patients; most patients require surgical intervention, which poses a major challenge for clinicians[2]. Fibrosis forms after repeated stimulation of intestinal tissue by long-term chronic inflammation. Similar to fibrosis in other organs, the potential mechanism of action is complex and may be related to the interactions between a variety of cells and cytokines[3]. Due to the destruction of the epithelial barrier observed in IBD, intestinal bacterial products penetrate the stroma, and the epithelial gap induced by immune cells and immune cell
Zedoary turmeric-trisomes are from the three-rib-pill prescription written by Yao Jun in the Qing dynasty. Studies have shown that zedoary turmeric-trisomes can inhibit or reverse fibrosis changes in multiple organs[5,10], but the specific active components and their interactions remain unclear. In this study, the mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis was systematically studied using a network pharmacology approach. The virtual binding of compounds in zedoary turmeric-trisomes to receptor molecules was analyzed by molecular docking to identify the targets and binding sites, and the potential mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis was elucidated. This study provides a theoretical and scientific basis for further research.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Construction and screening of chemical constituents of zedoary turmeric-trisomes

The TCM Systems Pharmacology (TCMSP) database and analysis platform can be used to predict the absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of TCM chemical components in vivo and to screen for the targets of chemical components. The TCMSP database ([https://tcmspw.com/tcmsp.php](https://tcmspw.com/tcmsp.php))[11] was searched using the keywords “zegoary turmeric” and “trisomes” to determine the chemical composition; the criteria of an oral bioavailability (OB) of 30% or higher and a medicinal property (drug likeness, DL) of 0.18 or higher were used to filter the results. The PubChem database ([https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/](https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/))[12] was used to check the name of the chemical components and molecular structure, and the information for the qualified compounds was imported into Excel. Moreover, the TCMSP database was queried to retrieve the action targets of the chemical components in an Excel table, and the targets were imported into the UniProt database ([https://www.UniProt.org/](https://www.UniProt.org/)) [13] to correct the names of the targets for standardization purposes. The chemical components and action targets of the abovementioned drug pairs were classified, sorted and saved in Excel for future use.

Acquisition of targets of intestinal fibrosis in IBD

The GeneCards database is a comprehensive database of human genes that integrates multiple genetic database resources. Using the keywords “inflammatory bowel diseases-intestinal fibrosis”, we searched the GeneCards ([https://www.genecards.org/](https://www.genecards.org/)) database to identify associations between IBD and intestinal fibrosis target information.

Screening of common drug-disease targets and construction of the protein-protein interaction network

The notable drug targets included Rhizoma zedoariae trisomes based on an analysis using the Venny 2.1 online platform ([https://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/venny/](https://bioinfogp.cnb.csic.es/tools/venny/)), IBD intestinal fibrosis target mapping, a Venn diagram and common targets. The common targets were identified as potential targets of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis. The common targets were imported into the STRING 11.0 database ([https://string-db.org/](https://string-db.org/)), the species was limited to Homo sapiens, the minimum required interaction score was set to ≥ 0.7, and the option “Hide disconnected nodes in the network” was selected to construct the protein-protein interaction (PPI) network. An analysis of the topological properties of the network was conducted to predict the core regulatory targets in the network.

Network construction and analysis

Data files for the chemical components, corresponding targets and diseases were prepared and imported into Cytoscape 3.7.2 software to construct a network diagram of “zegoary turmeric-trisomes - chemical component - target - disease”. The “Network Analysis” plug-in was used to analyze the topological properties of the network and to measure the importance of the various nodes in the network according to the node degree value. Thus, the mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric trisomes on IBD intestinal fibrosis was predicted.
Gene enrichment analysis
The DAVID database is an online functional annotation system based on a web server for gene function enrichment analysis and pathway enrichment analysis that includes analysis tools and biological knowledge bases and is mainly used for the identification of target function and pathway information, disease analysis and other analyses. To further understand the function of a target and its role in the signaling pathway, DAVID (https://david.ncifcrf.gov/) was used to identify 1.3 and 6.8 common targets for subsequent Gene Ontology (GO) and Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) enrichment analyses using “Homo sapiens” as the background. To elucidate the potential mechanism of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis, GO and KEGG pathway enrichment analyses based on biological process (BP), cellular component (CC) and molecular function (MF) were performed on the potential targets.

Molecular docking
Molecular docking is a widely used computer virtual screening technology for predicting the interaction mode and affinity between a ligand and a receptor that is based on geometric and energy matching principles. In this study, the Chemical Book database (https://www.chemicalbook.com/Product-Index.aspx) was used to obtain the active ingredient in a .mol format file. The file was then imported into the SYBYL-x 2.1.1 energy optimization software program, and the file was saved in mol2 format for later use. After downloading the PDB format file of the crystal structure of the core target protein from the RSCB PDB database (https://www.rcsb.org/), Sybyl-x 2.1.1 software was used for a series of optimization operations, such as ligand extraction and hydrodehydration of the target protein. The docking mode of the receptor protein and ligand compound was observed using the Surflex-Dock module in the software program.

RESULTS

Screening of the chemical constituents of zedoary turmeric-trisomes
Using “zegoary” and “trisomes” as the keywords, 81 chemical constituents of zedoary and 30 chemical constituents of trisomes were obtained from a search of the TCMSP database. After applying the filters for OB ≥ 30% and DL ≥ 0.18 and removing compounds without targets, 5 active components were obtained, which corresponded to 60 targets, and these included 1 chemical component of zedoary and 5 chemical components of trisomes. These compounds include the components common to zedoary turmeric and trisomes. Table 1 shows the chemical composition of zedoary turmeric trisomes.

Screening of intestinal fibrosis targets in IBD
A total of 3153 targets related to intestinal fibrosis in IBD were retrieved from the GeneCards database using the key words “inflammatory bowel disease-intestinal fibrosis”.

Target screening and PPI network analysis of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis
Sixty targets of the active ingredients of zedoary turmeric-trisomes and 3153 targets of enteric fibrosis in IBD were introduced into Venny 2.1 for intersection operation, and 44 common targets were obtained, reflecting the synergistic effect of zedoary turmeric-trisomes on multiple targets in the treatment of diseases (Figure 1). Forty-four common targets were imported into the STRING database, the species was set to Homo sapiens, and the minimum required interaction score was set to ≥ 0.7. After selecting the option “Hide disconnected nodes in the network”, the PPI network was generated (Figure 2A). The network involved 36 nodes with 65 edges, and the average node degree was 3.61. The node degree represents the number of edges connected to a specific node in the network. The larger the degree is, the more critical the node. Figure 2B shows the information for the top 30 targets in the PPI network based on node degree values, and the node degrees of JUN, MAPK14, CASP3, AR, PTGS2, CASP8, ESR1, BCL2, CHRM1, ADRA1B, BAX, CASP9, PGR, PRKCA and RXRA were greater than 3.61 (the average node degree value). These results indicate that these nodes interact more with other proteins in the network, which suggests that these targets play important roles in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis.

Construction and analysis of the “zegoary turmeric-trisomes - chemical component - target - disease” network
Cytoscape 3.7.2 software was used to visualize the “zegoary turmeric-trisomes - chemical composition - target - disease” regulatory network. The “Network Analyzer” plug-in was used to analyze the topological properties of the network, and the node degree was used as an important indicator describing the nodes in the network. As shown in Figure 3, the red arrow represents IBD, the green triangle represents TCM, the yellow square represents chemical components, and the blue oval
Table 1 Chemical composition information of zedoary turmeric and trisomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Compound ID</th>
<th>Compound name</th>
<th>Oral bioavailability (%)</th>
<th>Dibenzodiazepines</th>
<th>Herbs</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MOL001297</td>
<td>Trans-gondoic acid</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>Trisomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MOL000358</td>
<td>Beta-sitosterol</td>
<td>36.91</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Trisomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>MOL00392</td>
<td>Formononetin</td>
<td>69.67</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>Trisomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MOL000449</td>
<td>Stigmasterol</td>
<td>43.83</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>Trisomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MOL000296</td>
<td>Hederagenin</td>
<td>36.91</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>Trisomes, zedoary turmeric</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1 Venn diagram of the targets of zedoary turmeric-trisomes and intestinal fibrosis in inflammatory bowel disease.

Figure 2 Protein-protein interaction network construction and analysis. A: Protein-protein interaction (PPI) regulatory network diagram; B: PPI network topology analysis.

represents the targets of the chemical components. The network consisted of 52 nodes, including 1 disease node, 2 TCM nodes, 5 chemical component nodes and 44 chemical component action targets. The average degree of the chemical components in the network was 19.20, and the average degree of the chemical component action targets was 3.05. An analysis of the compounds revealed that the degrees of hederagenin, beta-sitosterol, formononetin and stigmasterol were greater than 19.20. Regarding the targets, 12 had degrees greater than 3.05, and the top 5 targets were identified as PTGS1, CHRM1, PTGS2, GABRA1 and PGR, reflecting the synergistic effect of zedoary turmeric-trisomes on the treatment of IBD based on multiple components and multiple targets. The degree values of the compounds (No. 1-5) and targets (No. 6-49) are shown in Table 2.

GO and KEGG enrichment analyses
GO and KEGG enrichment analyses of the common targets were performed using the DAVID 6.8
database. A total of 759 items were obtained from the GO enrichment analysis, including 629 BP items, 41 CC items and 89 MF items. The results from the GO enrichment analysis were then sorted according to the corrected P-value, and a bar chart of the top 20 items was generated (Figure 4). The length of each bar in the figure represents the number of enriched genes, and the color difference represents the significance of the gene enrichment. The top BP terms included regulation of the membrane potential, response to steroid hormones, regulation of blood pressure, regulation of tube diameter, regulation of blood vessel size, and regulation of blood vessel diameter. The top CC terms included the intrinsic component of the postsynaptic membrane, the integral component of the postsynaptic membrane, the intrinsic component of the presynaptic membrane (membrane), the integral component of the presynaptic membrane (raft), the intrinsic component of the presynaptic membrane, and the membrane microdomain. The top MF terms included steroid hormone receptor activity and G protein-coupled amine receptor activity. Adrenergic receptor activity, nuclear receptor activity, transcription factor activity, and sequence-specific DNA binding activity are directly regulated by ligands, which also regulate sequence-specific DNA binding and catecholamine binding, among other processes.

The KEGG enrichment analysis yielded 52 items, and the top 19 items were selected to create a bubble map for visualization purposes according to the number of enriched genes, as shown in Figure 4. In the figure, the bubble size represents the number of enriched genes, and the color difference represents the significance of the gene enrichment. The KEGG enrichment results mainly involved pathways in cancer, neuroactive ligand-receptor interaction, hepatitis B, the calcium signaling pathway, adrenergic signaling in cardiomyocytes, and tuberculosis.

**Molecular docking results**

The top 4 target proteins (PTGS1, CHRM1, PTGS2 and GABRA1) in the network constructed as
described in Section 2.4 were extracted. Sybyl-x 2.1.1 was used for the molecular docking of hederagenin, beta-sitosterol, formononetin and stigmasterol. In the docking results (Figure 5), the purple color represents the above four compounds, and the red dotted lines represent hydrogen bond interactions. As shown in Figure 5A, ivy saponins interact with GABRA1 through Trp65, Ser130, Ser131, Gln348 and Glu349, and as depicted in Figure 5B, \( \beta \)-sitosterol interacts with PTGS2 through hydrogen bonds via Thr212 and Gln454. Moreover, as indicated in Figure 5C, formononetin interacts with CHRM1 through hydrogen bond interactions between Thr189 and Thr192, and as illustrated in Figure 5D, stigmasterol interacts with PTGS1 through hydrogen bond interactions between Arg120 and Glu524.
conclusion, the compounds saponin, β-sitosterol, formononetin and stigmasterol interact with GABRA1, PTGS2, CHRM1 and PTGS1 through hydrogen bonds and thus fully bind to the active site of the target protein, exhibiting good binding activity with the target protein.

**DISCUSSION**

**Application of network pharmacology for the prediction and analysis of the compatibility relationship between zedoary turmeric and trisomes**

Network pharmacology aims to further clarify the interactions and mechanism of a TCM and provide new strategies for drug research and development through the construction of a “drug - target - disease” network[15]. As an auxiliary screening method, molecular docking technology has been widely used to analyze the features of pharmacodynamic substances of TCM, to search for drug targets and to explore the mechanism of action of a TCM[16]. Network pharmacology combined with molecular docking technology has shown significant advantages in basic research on the activity of a TCM[17]. In this study, through the construction of the “drug - component - target - disease” network, the 8 active ingredients with higher degree values were analyzed to provide a reference for identifying the compatibility relationship between zedoary turmeric and trisomes and were found to jointly participate in the regulation of IBD intestinal fibrosis[18]. Studies have proven that ivy saponin has anti-inflammatory, anticoagulant, antidepressant, antitumor, antibacterial and other effects[19]. β-Sitosterol exerts antioxidant, cholesterol-lowering, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory and antitumor effects and can also enhance the secretion of IL-2 and interferon-γ, inhibit the secretion of IL-4, and exert anti-inflammatory effects by inhibiting IL-6 and tumor necrosis factor[20]. Formononetin, as an active component of flavonoids extracted naturally, was recently applied in a variety of disease models as a new inflammatory inhibitor and may have potential therapeutic value for IBD by activating Nrf2 expression[21]. Zielińska et al[22] showed that stigmasterol significantly reduced the inflammatory factors IL-1β, IL-6, and MCP-1 and the related cytokine synthase COX-2, inhibited colon shortening, and reduced the severity of IBD. These researchers also found that stigmasterol had greater anti-inflammatory activity than β-sitosterol and inhibited the symptoms of colitis[23]. In this study, the molecular docking results showed that hederagenin, β-sitosterol, formononetin and stigmasterol might be the core components of zedoary turmeric and trisomes involved in the treatment of intestinal fibrosis and might play an antifibrotic role through immune regulation and anti-inflammatory effects[24]. According to the synergistic effects of multiple components, we speculate that trisomes regulate immunity and exhibit anti-inflammatory effects in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis, whereas zedoary aids the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis and improves body function[25].
Association analysis between core target expression and IBD intestinal fibrosis

Further analysis of the core targets in the “drug - chemical - target - disease” network and PPI network revealed that the top 5 targets were PTGS1, CHRM1, PTGS2, GABRA1 and PGR, suggesting that these genes may be the core targets in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis. Among the top 30 targets in the PPI network based on the node degree value, the cancer-related targets included AR, ESR1, BCL2, CHRM1, ADRA1B, BAX, PGR, RXRA, CCNA2, ADRB1, ADH1C, SLC6A3, NR3C2, MAOB, ADRA2A, PPAR, PRKCA, NO2S, ESR2, CHRM3, ADRB2, and ADRA1A. The targets associated with hepatitis B were CCNA2, ADRB1, MAOB, and ADRB2, and the immunomodulatory targets included IL-4 and MAPK14. The targets associated with inflammation are PTGS2, PPAR and IL-4, and the targets related to the calcium signaling pathway, which include CHRM1, CHRM3, CASP3, CASP8, and CASP9, interact with the neuroactive ligand receptor. Recent studies have found that CASP activation can be observed in tumor cell apoptosis. CASP refers to a family of cysteine aspartate-specific proteases, and these proteases are the main enzymes that perform cell apoptosis and are involved in the occurrence and development of various diseases, particularly tumors and autoimmune diseases[26]. As a key protease, CASP9 participates in the transmission of exogenous apoptosis signals in mammals, and CASP9 plays a crucial role in the mitochondria-mediated endogenous apoptosis pathway[27]. CASP3 plays a central role as a key protease in apoptosis and is also known as the “death protease”, and the cascade reaction of apoptosis continues after the action of this enzyme[28]. Immune factors, including helper T cells, regulatory T cells, cytokines and autoantibodies, play an important role in the pathogenesis and progression of IBD[29]. The cytokine IL-4 plays an important role in regulating intestinal barrier function, is mainly synthesized by activated lymphocytes, and can inhibit the production of other cytokines, including IL-1, IL-6, IL-8 and TNF-α, and the generation of lymphocytes and macrophages [30]. Several studies have reported that in IBD, IL-4 significantly reduced vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and inhibited the formation of blood vessels[31], but the expression of VEGF in the tumor tissues of patients with colorectal tumors was significantly increased[32]. The results of this study indicated that PRKCA was involved in the regulation of the proliferation, differentiation, survival, migration, cell polarity and cell cycle of various cancer cells; in mediating cell proliferation, differentiation, cell cycle progression and apoptosis; in regulating gene expression; and in promoting tumor formation and metastasis and participates in metabolic regulation[33]. The PTGS2 gene is induced by COX2 and is involved in the inflammatory response, cell proliferation, apoptosis and other pathological processes[34]. Further analysis of the core targets in the “drug - components - target - disease” network and PPI network revealed that the mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis was primarily related to inflammatory factors and antitumor and immune regulation[35].

The main mechanism of zedoary turmeric and trisomes in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis
reveals the synergistic relationship and compatibility of TCMs

Compared with other organs where fibrosis occurs, the gut is the only organ where a large number of microorganisms coexist, and gut microbes have a profound impact on mucosal homeostasis between health and disease. Changes in the intestinal barrier can cause bacteria to migrate into the intestinal mucosa or portal vein circulation, which alters the host-microbe interactions that are key to intestinal inflammation[36]. In particular, gut cells can sense microbe-derived, pathogen-associated molecular patterns through pattern recognition receptors[37].

TCMs have achieved good results in the treatment of diseases through dialectical treatment and a holistic approach[38]. TCM or TCM compounds have multiple components and can have a regulatory role through multiple channels, multiple targets and multiple links[39]. The typical characteristic of IBD intestinal fibrosis is intestinal fibrosis formed by stenosis, which seriously affects the quality of life of patients[40]. This study focused on the factors and mechanisms related to fibrosis and found that trisomes and zedoary had therapeutic effects through inflammatory factor regulation, immune regulation, antitumor activity and other pathways[41,42]. Vermeire et al[43] used a San-ling pill prescription combined with Western medicine to reduce the Crohn’s disease activity index score, platelet activity index and D-dimer index of patients with Crohn’s disease and to improve the rate of endoscopic fibrosis. The underlying fibrosis mechanism in IBD is complex, involving a variety of cellular and molecular mechanisms, and the traditional view that intestinal fibrosis is an inevitable and irreversible process is gradually changing[44].

CONCLUSION

In summary, zedoary turmeric and trisomes influence each other and act together to treat IBD intestinal fibrosis through multiple pathways with their multiple components and targets, and this finding fully reflects the holistic and comprehensive characteristics of TCMs in the treatment of diseases[45]. The results of the analysis of their mechanism of action in the treatment of IBD intestinal fibrosis via a technical approach consisting of network pharmacology and molecular interconnections lay the foundation for further research and provide a new perspective for multidimensional and multilevel...
Zheng L, et al. Zedoary turmeric-trisomes in IBD with intestinal fibrosis

research on treatments with TCM compounds.

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Research background
Intestinal fibrosis is a serious complications of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), but there is no effective drug treatment. Therefore, it is important to find drug treatments with fewer side effects.

Research motivation
To provide an objective basis for zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD with intestinal fibrosis.

Research objectives
To investigate the use of network pharmacology and molecular docking technology in analyzing the effective components and mechanism of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD with intestinal fibrosis.

Research methods
The Traditional Chinese Medicine Systems Pharmacology Database and Analysis Platform were used to extract the active components and action targets of zedoary turmeric-trisomes.

Research results
The protein-protein interaction network showed that the core therapeutic targets included JUN, MAPK14, CASP3, AR, and PTGS2. The GO enrichment analysis identified 759 items, and the KEGG enrichment analysis yielded 52 items. Molecular docking showed that the compound bonded with the target through hydrogen bond interactions and exhibited good docking activity.

Research conclusions
This study identified the potential mechanism of action of zedoary turmeric-trisomes in the treatment of IBD using network pharmacology and molecular docking technology.

Research perspectives
TCM has a potential mechanism in the treatment of IBD with intestinal fibrosis.

FOOTNOTES

Author contributions: Zheng L, Ji YY, Dai YC and Wu SC reviewed the literature and prepared the manuscript, performed to the writing and revising of the manuscript; Zheng L and Wen XL contributed to design this work, and performed overall supervision; Zheng L wrote and revised the paper; all authors approved the final manuscript.

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