INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Review Stage at time of this submission: **Preliminary searches.**

Conflicts of interest: **No.**

Multiple Traditional Chinese Medicine interventions for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a protocol for systematic review and meta analysis of overview

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Review question / Objective: **Our review aims to evaluate the deviation of multiple Traditional Chinese Medicine(TCM) interventions alone or combined with conventional western medicine treatment measures for the improvement of main symptoms and quality of life in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis patients and the reliability of systematic reviews conclusion.**
Condition being studied: **Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic, progressive and fibrotic interstitial lung disease (ILD) characterized by extensive pulmonary remodeling caused by abnormal deposition of extracellular matrix. IPF has a poor prognosis, with a median survival of 2-3 years after diagnosis. Dry cough and dyspnea are the main clinical manifestations of IPF. Progressive worsening of symptoms and irreversible deterioration in lung function probably bring about a lower quality of life (QoL).**

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 27 August 2020 and was last updated on 27 August 2020 (registration number INPLASY202080110).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Participant or population: According to the diagnostic criteria of human patients with IPF in stable stage, the patient's sex, age, race, onset time and source of cases are not limited. Patients during acute exacerbation of IPF or with other respiratory diseases will be excluded.

Intervention: TCM therapy alone or combined with routine western medicine measures should be applied in the treatment group. TCM interventions comprise Chinese herbal formulas, acupuncture, moxibustion, and acupoint application, etc.

Comparator: Conventional pharmacotherapy, placebo, oxygen therapy and no treatment.

Study designs to be included: Literature search, literature screening, data extraction, software analysis and conclusion.

Eligibility criteria: Systematic review /Meta analysis based on randomized controlled trial, RCT) is limited to Chinese and English.

Information sources: We will search the databases (PubMed, EMBASE, CINAHL, Cochrane Library, Epistemonikos,CBM, CNKI, VIP, WF) for the systematic review or meta analysis. There is no restriction on the language of publication.

Main outcome(s): All reliable measurements of major symptoms (dry cough, dyspnea) and quality of life improvement, such as TCM symptom score (dry cough, dyspnea), SGRQ, LCQ, BPQ,SF-36, ATAQ-IPF, etc.

Additional outcome(s): Improvement of minor symptoms, total clinical effective rate, pulmonary function, blood gas analysis, 6-minute walking test, adverse events, acute exacerbation, all-cause mortality, IPF-related mortality.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Two reviewers will independently assess the quality of included systematic reviews using AMSTAR 2 tool, the PRISMA tool and ROBIS tool. In case of any divergence will be reached an agreement by discussion or adjudicated by a third senior reviewer.

Strategy of data synthesis: Narrative (descriptive) synthesis is planned. We will produce and present a summary of all the results reported in the included SRs. We will provide the results of methodological quality assessed by AMSTAR-2, ROBIS and PRISMA in tabular form.

Subgroup analysis: None planned for the overview of systematic reviews.

Sensibility analysis: None planned for the overview of systematic reviews.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis; Traditional Chinese Medicine; overview; systematic revew; protocol

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