Assessment of the efficacy and safety of traditional Chinese medicine therapy for gastric cancer
A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: This review aims to systematically evaluate the efficacy and safety of traditional Chinese medicine for gastric cancer reported in randomized clinical trials (RCTs).

Condition being studied: Gastric cancer: digestive system malignant tumors.

Information sources: PubMed, EMBASE, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), CNKI (Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure), and CBM (Chinese Biological Medical Database).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 27 November 2020 and was last updated on 27 November 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020110120).

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Review Stage at time of this submission: The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest: None.
NCCN guideline) without age, gender, and racial limitations.

**Intervention:** TCM were used exclusively or in combination with other therapeutic methods. Types of Chinese medicines, combined use methods will be ignored.

**Comparator:** Other therapeutic methods (include the any other non-TCM treatment) or in combination with sham TCM.

**Study designs to be included:** This study includes all relevant randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of traditional Chinese medicine therapy for GC published in Chinese or English, regardless of allocation hidden or blinded.

**Eligibility criteria:** Randomized controlled trials (RCTs) will be included in this study. There were no limitations on year of publication, publication status.

**Information sources:** PubMed, EMBASE, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), CNKI (Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure), and CBM (Chinese Biological Medical Database).

**Main outcome(s):** Karnofsky Performance Scale score, quality of Life.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** The risk of bias of included nonrandomized studies will be evaluated according to the tool for assessing risk of bias in nonrandomized studies of interventions (ROBINS-I).

**Strategy of data synthesis:** Pairwise meta-analyses. Using Revman 5.3 software provided by Cochrane Collaboration Network, meta-analyses were carried out for the included researches.

**Subgroup analysis:** Subgroup analyses are designed for age, sex, and different preoperative chemotherapy methods.

**Sensibility analysis:** Assess the sensitivity of results by analyzing studies including patients without complications, the studies without missing data.

**Country(ies) involved:** China.

**Keywords:** Gastric cancer; meta-analysis, protocol, systematic review, traditional Chinese medicine.

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