

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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**Support: Individual  
contribution.**

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

**Conflicts of interest:**  
None declared.

## Shaoyao Gancao Decoction for limb dysfunction after fractures around the knee: A protocol for systematic review

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**Review question / Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the effects of SGD on patients with limb dysfunction from the perspectives of pain, limb edema, stiffness, as well as physical dysfunction.

**Study designs to be included:** This review only includes the intervention measures of SGD, including trials comparing SGD with standard treatment and/ or placebo. Trials of SGD combined with other therapies will be included.

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 07 January 2022 and was last updated on 07 January 2022 (registration number INPLASY202210028).

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** This study aimed to evaluate the effects of SGD on patients with limb dysfunction from the perspectives of pain, limb edema, stiffness, as well as physical dysfunction.

**Condition being studied:** Shaoyao Gancao Decoction for limb dysfunction after fractures around the knee.

### METHODS

**Participant or population:** Patients are eligible if they suffered from limb dysfunction after FAK regardless of the severity or duration, gender, ethnicity, or age.

**Intervention:** Patients are eligible if they suffered from limb dysfunction after FAK

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regardless of the severity or duration, gender, ethnicity, or age.

**Comparator:** Other therapies.

**Study designs to be included:** This review only includes the intervention measures of SGD, including trials comparing SGD with standard treatment and/ or placebo. Trials of SGD combined with other therapies will be included.

**Eligibility criteria:** People with limb dysfunction after FAK regardless of gender, ethnicity, age, or severity and duration of the disease.

**Information sources:** Not reported.

**Main outcome(s):** To address this gap in the literature and provide experts and patients with the latest evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of this therapy and guide clinical practice, we propose to conduct a systemic review to summarize the current evidence regarding the efficacy as well as safety of SGD for limb dysfunction after FAK. The analysis and evaluation of clinical randomized controlled trials (RCTs) involving patients with limb dysfunction will be performed according to the basic principles of evidence-based medicine.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** The quality of included studies will be rated according to seven parameters as published in the Cochrane Handbook to assess the risk of bias.

**Strategy of data synthesis:** Literature screening will be conducted independently by two researchers. Duplicate literature will be identified and excluded. All literature that fails to meet the established inclusion and exclusion criterion will be excluded. A discrepancy between the two researchers will be resolved by referring arbitration to a third researcher.

**Subgroup analysis:** According to the prescription adjustment, dose, course of treatment, and different control groups of SGD, subgroup analysis will be conducted

for the study if it shows significant heterogeneity.

**Sensitivity analysis:** When there are enough studies, sensitivity analysis will be conducted to evaluate the robustness of the study based on methodological quality, sample size, and missing data. According to the prescription adjustment, dose, course of treatment, and different control groups of SGD, subgroup analysis will be conducted for the study if it shows significant heterogeneity.

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

**Keywords:** Shaoyao Gancao Decoction, fracture around the knee, limb dysfunction, systematic review, protocol.

**Contributions of each author:**

Author 1 - Xiaohua Shi.

Author 2 - Yu Bai.

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