



EVIDENCE OF POTENTIAL HARMFUL INTERACTIONS BETWEEN ASPIRIN/CLOPIDOGREL AND TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE ASPIRIN/CLOPIDOGREL 與中藥間潛在交互作用 之實證探討

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Background: Given a 79-year-old man was prescribed with clopidogrel to prevent stroke, it was noticed that he also visited Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Department in the same hospital to seek help for his pain problem. Through electronic chart review and literature search, it was confirmed that some ingredients in his TCM remedy were interacted with clopidogrel. As for the most common antiplatelet agents used for the elderly, it is unclear for what extent the evidence would be about their interactions with TCM. The aim of this study was to conduct a systematic review to examine the evidence of interactions between aspirin/clopidogrel and TCM.

Methods: Information related to interactions between aspirin/clopidogrel and TCM was retrieved from eight interaction-based textbooks, five web resources and several primary biomedical journals. The literature search was conducted in PubMed, EMBASE, Airtiti Library, and CNKI, etc. The search years were from 2000 to 2010 and the languages were restricted to English and Chinese. One standardized data abstraction checklist was used to extract all relevant data. Herbs or natural products not used as a TCM were excluded for further analysis. The corresponding mechanisms and severity ratings of interactions were retrieved from *MicroMedex*® and *Lexi-Interact*®.

Results: A total of 63 pairs of interactions were identified. Aspirin and clopidogrel were documented to interact with 36 and 27 individual TCM, respectively. 35% (22 pairs) of interactions were identified for their evidence describing the corresponding mechanisms and severity. All of these interactions were attributable to pharmacodynamic mechanisms and rated as moderate or major interactions. The antiplatelet effect of aspirin and clopidogrel may be enhanced by Asian ginseng, clove, dong quai, garlic, and ginger, etc.

Conclusions: Aspirin and clopidogrel were documented to have harmful interactions with some common used TCM. These combinations may increase the risk of bleeding and need to be monitored carefully, especially for the elderly users.