

## Thoughts and Characteristics of Zi-Ming Chen in the Treatment of Postpartum Flooding

Yi-Rong Lin<sup>1,3</sup> and Su-Tso Yang<sup>1,2</sup>

*Graduate Institute of Chinese Medicine and School of Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Radiology, China Medical University Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

<sup>3</sup>*Department of Chinese Medicine, Ching-Chyuan General Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan, R.O.C.*

Postpartum flooding (postpartum hemorrhage in modern medicine, PPH) is a significant leading cause of direct maternal mortality worldwide. It represented 27% of maternal deaths. Occurrence rate was 0.4-1.6%. Reduction of maternal mortality has long been a global health priority in the promotion of health care. Therefore, discussion of the management of postpartum flooding is an important issue.

*Compendium of Effective Prescriptions for Women* is one of the earliest classics of the field of obstetrics and gynecology in traditional Chinese medicine. It provides a systemic review in this medical specialty. The author, Zi-Ming Chen, was both an obstetrician and a gynecologist. He was also a college professor. His father and grandfather were all clinical doctors. Therefore, his professional credentials and academic work marked the strong influence of his book. This study investigates the thoughts and prescription features of *Compendium of Effective Prescriptions for Women* and looks for the ancient methods to stanch postpartum flooding.

The thoughts of Zi-Ming Chen originated from *Yellow Emperor's Internal Canon, Treatise on the Pathogenesis and Manifestations of All Diseases*, and *Tested Treasures in Obstetrics*. Chen thought flooding was due to labor, panic, fright, dietary irregularity, blood stasis, qi and blood deficiency, and insecurity of the thoroughfare and conception vessels. The number of prescriptions given is 9. The methods he used to control the postpartum flooding include uterus warming and blood nourishing, qi tonifying, thoroughfare vessel strengthening, stasis resolving and qi moving, and astringent stanching.

Chen's thoughts in the prescription of postpartum flooding are incisive and unique. It deserves to be a treatment paradigm for achieving the complication-free stanching efficacy.

**Key words:** Zi-Ming Chen, postpartum flooding

