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Integrative joint organizational platform of Chinese medicine and Western medicine in the management on recalcitrant atopic dermatitis

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Western medicine (WM) treats acute symptoms effectively. TCM has a time-honored record of relieving patients suffering from symptoms unresponsive to WM. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) also helps avoiding the use of immunosuppressants and antibiotics. An expert panel as a focus group on eczema comprises Chinese medicine practitioners (CMP) and Western medicine specialists (WMS) working based on an opinion sharing model under the established integrative joint organizational platform (IJOP). It is a program under the Hong Kong Association for Integration of Chinese-Western Medicine (HKAIM), funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC). The aim is to provide a management framework assisting CMP-WMS collaboration. The disease-oriented study under IJOP has chosen eczema, asthma, post stroke management, colon and breast cancer, and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) for the study. These are disease amenable to collaborative practice where lacking either WM or CM is less effective. Toxicologists, University Academics, CMP and WMS could communicate through IJOP for collaboration and to layout examples in eczema collaboration. The study will propose principles, criteria and evaluation for co-consultation borrowing experience from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). Sharing on how to develop CM-WM collaboration was fruitful. CM research and development through systematic review of old Chinese literatures, use of Big Data from text mining, and opinions from experienced CMP would be collected through the focus groups for sources of Chinese medicine evidence. Methods should be addressed to build a path for patient effectiveness with reduction of dosing in Chinese and Western medicine in managing diseases. Risk of herb-drug interaction must be documented. Other directives are: to resolve the issues of CMP and WMS using a communicable medical language in describing symptoms; and pairing up of CMP and WMS for patient referral. Position papers were published; furthermore, messaging groups were set up for rapid communication..

Biography

Chan Kam Tim Michael is a Dermatologist in private practice, Hong Kong. He received his fellowship from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (FHKAM). He has done his Post-doctoral training from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1997. He is now the Vice President of the Association of Integrative Aesthetic Medicine (AIAM) in Hong Kong. He was the Editor of Hong Kong Journal of Dermatology and Venereology from 2002 to 2007. He was an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong from July 2007 to June 2009.

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