

The Inspiration of Tang Zonghai's Syndrome of Blood Stasis Treatment Method for the Treatment of Malignant Tumors

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Abstract

Tang Zonghai has its unique treatment idea for treating syndrome of blood stasis. Combined with the relationship between syndrome of blood stasis and tumors, it discusses the ideas and methods of clinical treatment of malignant tumors. Treating syndrome of blood stasis should take dispelling stasis as the first essence. It uses syndrome differentiation to treat syndrome of blood stasis, location differentiation and select drugs and treatments. Comprehensive syndrome differentiation and location differentiation therapy, and flexible applications of activating blood circulation and resolving stasis method are used to treat syndrome of blood stasis. The treatment method has apparent regularity and open-mindedness and is informative. It has its adaptability and practicality in clinical application to treat malignant tumors.

Keywords: syndrome of blood stasis, malignant tumor, syndrome differentiation, location differentiation

1. Introduction

Tang Zonghai (1851-1908), a famous doctor of the late Qing Dynasty, courtesy name Rongchuan, was born in Peng County, Sichuan Province. The representative work is the *Theory of Blood Syndrome*. In his work, Tang Zonghai analyses and studies blood syndrome. Among them, the research and discussion of syndrome of blood stasis was a significant guide to the clinical treatment of malignant tumors.

2. Tumors

2.1 Ancient Study of Tumors

Traditional Chinese medicine has a long history in the study of tumors. In ancient books, it is called "cancer", "rock", "rocky mass in the breast", "phlegmonous mastitis", "ru ying", "nai yan", "aggregation-accumulation (in gynecology)", "abdominal mass", etc. The cause of the tumor was first explained in the *Neijing* as a "disharmony between nutrient qi and defensive qi". Traditional Chinese medicine has rich experience in the treatment of tumors. Still, due to the limitations of historical conditions, there is no independent division of tumour diagnosis and treatment, so there is a lack of complete and systematic oncology monographs on tumors. Still, the information about tumors scattered in various ancient medical books and literature is very detailed. For example, in Yang Shiyong's *Renzhai Zhizhi Fanglun*, it is mentioned that "the top is high and the bottom is deep, uneven, and the shape is like a rock hole on a rock wall, which hangs down continuously. The appearance is cracked, like protruding eyeballs. It's cyan; although the exposed part is not large, the root of the poison is very deep, and the perforation penetrates into the body. Most men are affected in the abdomen, and most women have affected in the breast." Another book by Ge Hong, *Zhouhou Beiji Fang*: "All these symptoms are gradually revealed. Once the patient feels it, it means that the disease is severe, so it is difficult to cure. The symptoms in the abdomen develop and accumulate seriously, which leads to the patient losing appetite and losing weight." Then there is Chao Yuanfang's *Zhu Bing Yuan Hou Lun* states: "For patients with this disease, their ability to regulate heat and cold will be lost, which will lead to the weakening of the vitality in the zang-fu viscera, which

will lead to the ability to digest and absorb weaken. Symptoms build up inside and gradually grow into lumps that cannot be eliminated, so the symptoms form. Over time, the person will lose weight, and the abdomen will become enlarged due to the lump, resulting in death.”

2.2 Modern Research on Tumors

Modern study on tumors is more extensive in Western medicine than in Chinese medicine. They believe a tumor is a new organism generated by a group of cells with uncontrolled growth that undergoes multiple genetic mutations. Although some tumors can only occur from one malignant mutation, the vast majority of malignant tumors require multiple mutations to form. Some tumors can contain multiple heterogeneous components in their composition.

3. Relationship Between Syndrome of Blood Stasis and Tumors

With the development of the social economy, people have made significant changes in diet structure, lifestyle, living environment, etc. The incidence of malignant tumors is also increasing year by year. The 2014 national death data in the United States found that malignant tumors were the first cause of death in the 40-79 age group (SIEGEL R L, MILLER K D & JEMAL A., 2017). From clinical research and analysis, many reports have confirmed that patients with malignant tumors often have a hypercoagulable state of blood and the incidence of thrombosis in patients with malignant tumor is about 10% to 30% (BI X J., 2007). Hypercoagulation refers to a condition in which the body's blood is prone to coagulation and formation of a thrombus, also known as the prethrombotic state. A hypercoagulable state of blood is considered to be related to tumor metastasis, and thromboembolic events caused by hypercoagulation are the most common complication and the second cause of death in cancer patients (QIAN L Y & GUO Y. 2013). Intervention and treatment of hypercoagulable state in malignant tumors can effectively prevent the metastasis of malignant tumors and prolong the life of tumor patients (TIAN H & TIAN S S., 2019). From the perspective of traditional Chinese medicine, the abnormality of coagulation function in tumor patients to varying degrees is similar to syndrome of blood stasis mentioned in traditional Chinese medicine. When tumor patients present painful lumps, bleeding, squamous and dry skin, ecchymosis on the tongue, dark purple tongue, sublingual varicose veins, astringent pulse or nodules are all clinical manifestations of static blood (Chinese Medicine Diagnostic Collaboration Group of the China Anti-Cancer Association of the Chinese Association for the Integration of Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine, 1987). Therefore, blood anticoagulants and thrombolysis are crucial in the clinical treatment of patients with malignant tumors. Consequently, it is reasonable to skillfully use traditional Chinese medicine to promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis in the clinical treatment of malignant tumors.

4. Characteristics of Tang Zonghai's Treatment of Syndrome of Blood Stasis

4.1 The Etiology and Pathogenesis of Static Blood

The *Theory of Blood Syndrome* states that “the vomiting is leaking, and the blood is separate from the meridian. All the blood that separates from the meridian is away from the blood that nourishes the whole body. Those who have entered the stomach can spit it out. Those who do not enter the stomach and stay in the meridians should be eliminated by taking medicine, or out of the urine, or expelled from the stool. Make sure it doesn't stay in the body, so there will be no danger left.” (“吐衄便漏，其血无不离经。凡系离经之血，与营养周身之血已睽绝而不合。其已入胃中者，听其吐下可也。其在经脉中而未入胃者，急宜用药消除，或化从小便出，或逐从大便出，务使不留，则无余邪为患。”) Traditional Chinese medicine believes that any blood that has left the meridians and cannot be discharged and dissipated in time stays in the body, or the patency of blood is poor, stagnate in the meridians, or stasis accumulates in zang-fu viscera's tissues and organs, is called static blood (SUN B X & JIA Y J., 2012). In addition, Tang Zonghai believes that the form of static blood is not a single one. “When the gai blood (盖血) first leaves the meridians, it is clear blood and fresh blood; although the blood has left the meridians, it is static blood.”

4.2 Location Differentiation Therapy of Syndrome of Blood Stasis

Syndrome of blood stasis refers to the internal obstruction of static blood, mainly manifested by pain, bleeding, purple tongue, hesitant pulse, etc. When treating syndrome of blood stasis, Tang Zonghai took dispelling stasis as the first priority, “Therefore, in all syndrome of blood stasis cases, dispelling stasis is always important.” The treatment of syndrome of blood stasis in each zang-fu viscera is based on dispelling stasis, combined with the physiological function of the zang-fu viscera, and the treatment is based on syndrome differentiation and location differentiation.

- (1) When static blood attacks the heart, it should be treated with Guixiong Shixiao San with amber, cinnabar and musk, or Guixiong decoction is good for regulating blood deficiency (血竭), and frankincense powder is also good for it, “lowering its blood urgently, thereby protecting its heart”. (急降其血，而保其心)
- (2) When static blood accumulates in the lungs, Shen Su San should be used to protect the lungs and do

dispelling stasis. If lung qi is stagnant, it is not appropriate to nourish the lungs, just dispelling stasis. This can be treated with tingli dazao decoction with sappan wood, cattail pollen, flying squirrel's droppings, and children's urine.

(3) When static blood stagnates between the zang-fu viscera and meridians, it causes qi stagnation and blood stasis, making the whole body pain. It should make the qi unobstructed; then, there will be no pain. Foshou san with peach seed, safflower, draconis resin, himalayan teasel root, largeleaf gentian root, Chinese throwax root, bamboo shavings, liquorice root, jiu Yin, or xiaochaihu with Chinese angelica, Chinese peony, tree peony root bark, peach seed, fineleaf schizonepeta herb, "especially for treating and clearing internal and external stasis."

(4) When the static blood is in the upper jiao, "or the hair is loss even not born, or stubborn pain in the bones, arms, chest and diaphragm" ("或发脱不生, 或骨膊胸膈顽硬刺痛"), Xiaochaihu decoction with Chinese angelica, Chinese peony, safflower and Japanese thistle herb is used for treatment.

(5) When the static blood is in the middle jiao, "abdominal pain and flank pain, stagnation between the waist and navel" ("腹痛胁痛, 腰脐间刺痛着滞"), Xiaochaihu decoction with nutgrass galingale rhizome, turmeric, rhubarb root and rhizome is used for treatment.

(6) When static blood is in the lower jiao, "small ribs under the flank, full tingling pain in the lower abdomen" ("季肋、少腹胀满刺痛"), Shixiao San with cujun and peach seed is used for treatment. Gexia zhuyu decoction can also be used.

(7) When static blood is inside, and feel thirsty, "therefore, blood and qi are not separated from each other, and there is blood stasis inside, so qi cannot pass through, and cannot carry water to rise, so thirst is called blood thirst. When the blood stasis is gone, there is no thirst." ("所以然者, 血与气本不相离, 内有瘀血, 故气不得通, 不能载水津上升, 是以发渴, 名曰血渴。瘀血去则不渴矣。") Siwu decoction with spine date seed, tree peony root bark, and twotoothed achyranthes root are all used for treatment.

(8) When static blood is in the subcutaneous tissue, "rongwei buhe, fever and chills", "cold and fever like malaria" ("荣卫不和, 发热恶寒", "寒热如疟之状"), Xiaochaihu decoction with peach seed, safflower, Chinese angelica and fineleaf schizonepeta herb is used for treatment.

(9) When static blood is in the muscles, it is "slight fever, spontaneous perspiration, night sweats", "its syndrome is like baihu" ("翕翕发热, 自汗盗汗", "其证象白虎"), Xijiao Dihuang decoction with peach seed and safflower is used for treatment, and fried xuefu zhuyu tang with vinegar and rhubarb root and rhizome is also can be used for treatment.

(10) When the static blood is between the meridians and zang-fu viscera, "the result is a constipation", "if the qi disperses, the blood will disperse, and it will not converge" ("则结为癥瘕", "气散则血随而散, 自不至于结聚矣"), so Jiuqi Wan can be used for treatment. If "it is tortured by qihuo, it is dry blood" ("被气火煎熬, 则为干血"), which can be treated by Zhongjing Dahuang Zhechong Wan. If "changed by the atmosphere, there will be tuberculosis" ("被风气变化, 则生癆虫"), Yuehua wan can treat this.

5. Experience Inspiration

5.1 Different Medicines for Different Parts

The most important and prominent feature of Tang Zonghai's treatment of syndrome of blood stasis is location differentiation. In his book *Theory of Blood Syndrome* · Volume 5· static blood, it can be clearly found that Tang uses different medications in different parts. For example, when stagnant blood attacks the heart, Guixiong Shixiao San with amber, cinnabar and musk should be used for treatment.

When static blood attacks the heart, it should be treated with Guixiong Shixiao San with amber, cinnabar and musk, or Guixiong decoction is suitable for regulating blood deficiency frankincense powder is also good for it, "lowering its blood urgently, thereby protecting its heart" (急降其血, 而保其心). When static blood accumulates in the lungs, Shen Su San should be used to protect the lungs and do dispelling stasis. If lung qi is stagnant, it is not appropriate to nourish the lungs, just dispelling stasis. This can be treated with tingli dazao decoction with sappan wood, cattail pollen, flying squirrel's droppings, and children's urine. When static blood stagnates is between the zang-fu viscera and meridians, causing qi stagnation and blood stasis, and the whole body is painful. It should make the qi unobstructed, then there will be no pain. Foshou san with peach seed, safflower, draconis resin, himalayan teasel root, largeleaf gentian root, Chinese throwax root, bamboo shavings, liquorice root, jiu Yin, or xiaochaihu with Chinese angelica, Chinese peony, tree peony root bark, peach seed, fineleaf schizonepeta herb, "especially for treating and clearing internal and external stasis." There is also the location differentiation treatment of the sanjiao. When the static blood is in the upper jiao, "or the hair is loss even not born, or stubborn pain in the bones, arms, chest and diaphragm" ("或发脱不生, 或骨膊胸膈顽硬刺痛"), xiaochaihu decoction with Chinese angelica, Chinese peony, safflower and Japanese thistle herb is used for treatment. When the static blood is in the middle jiao, "abdominal pain and flank pain, stagnation between the

waist and navel” (“腹痛胁痛，腰脐间刺痛着滞”)，Xiaochaihu decoction with nutgrass galingale rhizome, turmeric, rhubarb root and rhizome is used for treatment. When static blood is in the lower jiao, “small ribs under the flank, full tingling pain in the lower abdomen” (“季肋、少腹胀满刺痛”)，Shi Xiao San with cujun and peach seed is used for treatment. Gexia zhuyu decoction can also be used. This enlightens us that in the clinical treatment of malignant tumors, we should pay attention to identifying the site of tumor occurrence and selectively use different promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis medicines.

5.2 Different Drugs for Different Stages

Another critical feature of Tang’s treatment of syndrome of blood stasis is to use different medicines for different symptoms, promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis medicines are used at various stages of the disease. For example, when static blood is in the subcutaneous tissue, “rongwei buhe, fever and chills”, “cold and fever like malaria”, (“荣卫不和，发热恶寒”，“寒热如疟之状”)，Xiaochaihu decoction with peach seed, safflower, Chinese angelica and fineleaf schizonepeta herb is used for treatment. With the deepening of the pathogenesis, when static blood is in the muscles, it is “slight fever, spontaneous perspiration, night sweats”, “its syndrome is like baihu” (“翕翕发热，自汗盗汗”，“其证象白虎”)，Xijiao Dihuang decoction with peach seed and safflower is used for treatment, and fried xuefu zhuyu tang with vinegar and rhubarb root and rhizome is also can be used for treatment.

5.3 Select Promoting Blood Circulation for Removing Blood Stasis Medicines According to Different Medicinal Properties

Different promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis medicines have other medicinal properties, promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis medicines should be selected based on the characteristics of the disease. For example, when static blood and blood deficiency occurs, blood-nourishing and blood-activating medicines should be used, such as Chinese angelica, peony root, radix salviae miltiorrhizae, etc. When static blood and qi stagnation occurs, qi-activating and blood-activating medicines should be used, such as sichuan lovage rhizome, turmeric root tuber, etc. When static blood and heat in blood occurs, heat-clearing and stasis-removing medicines such as rhubarb root and rhizome, tree peony root bark, rhinohorn, etc., should be used. When static blood is accompanied by pain, dispelling stasis and pain relievers medicines such as draconis resin, frankincense, myrrh, etc., should be used. When static blood is serious, promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis medicines such as peach seed, safflower, sappan wood, sanqi, etc., should be used.

6. Conclusion

Numerous studies and literature have shown that malignant tumors are closely related to syndrome of blood stasis, syndrome of blood stasis, and the formation and development of cancer are causal to each other. Syndrome of blood stasis is also an essential condition for the metastasis of cancer, activating blood and resolving stasis has a definite effect on improving syndrome of blood stasis in tumors patients. In clinical treatment, the characteristics of tumor syndrome of blood stasis are flexible applications of the activating blood and resolving stasis method in the clinical treatment of tumours (WANG H, SUN G Z., 2012). In clinical treatment, the dialectical advantages of traditional Chinese medicine should be brought into play, according to the patient’s constitution and clinical treatment stage, the type, dose and dosage form of activating blood and resolving stasis medicines should be reasonably selected. The medication should be reasonably concerted (ZHAO S, YIN S S, WABG R & YU H Y., 2020). However, the dispelling stasis should still be the priority.

Although there are still problems and controversy in the clinical use of activating blood and resolving stasis to treat malignant tumours in traditional Chinese medicine, traditional Chinese medicine is constantly developing. The collation of this article is slightly narrow. It is hoped that the correctness of activating blood circulation and resolving blood stasis method to treat malignant tumours in traditional Chinese medicine will be tested in clinical practice.

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