

Kampo Formula Developed in Japan (4)

Jizusoippo

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Profile

The formula *jizusoippo* was created by Futei Fukui (1725-1792) and its contents later slightly modified by Sohaku Asada (1815-1894) to become the formula used today. Its naming suggests, that it is a "formula to treat eczema of the skull", but today it is used for skin diseases everywhere on the body. It carries the nickname *daikyuoto*.

Prescription composition

Cnidii Rhizoma 3 g
Atractylodis Lanceae Rhizoma 3 g
Forsythiae Fructus 3 g
Saposhnikoviae Radix 2 g
Glycyrrhizae Radix 1 g
Schizonepetae Spica 1 g
Carthami Flos 1 g
Rhei Rhizoma 0.5 g
Lonicerae Folium Cum Caulis 2 g

Efficacy

Expels wind and activates blood, clears heat and removes toxins, expels dampness

Main indication

Wind -dampness, heat toxin

Explanation of the formula

Schizonepetae Spica and *Saposhnikoviae* Radix disperse wind evil; *Atractylodis Lanceae* Rhizoma and *Ledebouriellae* radix remove dampness; *Cnidii* Rhizoma activates blood and at the same time supports the free coursing function of the liver and in conjunction with *Atractylodis Lanceae* Rhizoma dispels the wind evil from the blood. Forsythia, *Lonicera japonica* and *Glycyrrhizae* Radix clear heat and remove toxins, and together with *Rhei* Rhizoma cool and remove heat toxin from the blood. *Carthami* Flos in conjunction with *Cnidii* Rhizoma and *Rhei* Rhizoma alleviates blood stagnation and prevents

evil from remaining in blood. The combination of the ascending properties of *Cnidii* Rhizoma and descending properties of *Rhei* Rhizoma ensure a balance of the ascending and descending properties.

Clinical application

This formula is used specifically for skin diseases. Originally it was used for infants with eruptions on the skull, secretions, itching and eschar. While it is currently used not only for eruptions on the skull, but anywhere on the body, also in adults, its application is, not surprisingly, particularly high for eruptions on the skull or the face. It is used particularly frequent for cases with atopic dermatitis and thus led to the conduction of research relevant to this indication. The Rhubarb in this formula may not be necessary for people with daily regular bowel movements, but the addition of a small amount of *Rhei* Rhizoma probably gives better results.

1. Atopic dermatitis

Otsuka Keisetsu (1900-1982) was the first person to use this formula for the treatment of atopic dermatitis. The historical record mentions that in 1970 this disease was rare and there were only few refractory cases. Like the following example.

The patient was a 5-year old boy. Shortly after birth eczema developed and he received various treatments, but brought to consultation because the condition failed to improve. Most of the lesions were located on the arms and neck, as well as on the medial side of the knees. He caught easily cold, which then led to a congested nose and a tendency to develop hoarseness. Occasionally there were nose bleedings. Appetite varied extremely and was not constant. He drank plenty of water. One bowel movement per day. After 2 weeks of treatment with *jizusoippo* the skin had become smooth and almost all of the eruptions had receded. After continuing the medication for another 4 weeks the eruptions had disappeared without a trace¹⁾.

Later, physicians inspired by this case used the

formula for the treatment of atopic dermatitis and thus accumulating relevant clinical experience. A number of case reports or case series studies have been submitted.

Seki et al. reported a case of a 55-year old woman with adult atopic dermatitis. By the age of 40 erythematous patches associated with pruritus and desquamation developed in this woman on the face and were treated by a local physician with topical steroids, but because neither this resulted in complete recovery nor did similar treatments in several other clinics led to any remission and instead a topical steroid induced rosacea-like dermatitis developed as a complication, Kampo treatment was initiated. After the patient had been treated with *shosaikoto (Miner Bupleurum Decoction)* for 6 months, the condition had healed almost completely²⁾.

Yamamoto et al. evaluated the results after treating 36 patients with adult atopic dermatitis with *jizusoippo* (7.5-15.0 g) over a period of 4 or 8 weeks and reported marked improvements in 9 patients (25%), improvements in 8 patients (22.2%), mild improvements in 10 patients (27.8%) and no changes in 9 patients (25%)³⁾.

Cases where atopic dermatitis is associated with bronchial asthma often receive a combination therapy with *makyokansekito* or *shoseiryuto*. Otsuka mentioned that addition of Ephedra and gyps to *jizusoippo* improves not only the eczema but also the asthma⁴⁾.

Some cases of atopic dermatitis also respond to Eppikajutsuto. That is because the combination of Ephedra and gyps can dispel damp heat. Even in cases without asthma the combination of *jizusoippo* and *makyokansekito* can achieve similar results.

Ito reported the markedly effective treatment of a 1-year old girl with atopic dermatitis using a combination of *makyokansekito* and *jizusoippo*⁵⁾.

2. Seborrheic eczema

Jizusoippo has originally been developed for the treatment of pediatric seborrheic eczema. Today this disease can quickly be alleviated through topical application of steroid ointments, but in former times there was no really good treatment.

When Otsuka used *jizusoippo* for a 4-year old girl in whom shortly after birth erythematous lesions developed on the head and face, who complained of pruritus, formation of thick scabs from which serum oozed out if they were removed only to form new scabs, the pruritus was alleviated after about 10 days and after about 40 days the condition had completely been cured. Administration of the same formula over a period of 2 months following a recurrence again led to a complete recovery⁶⁾. This was in 1953.

The number of physicians using this formula for seborrheic eczema in infants increased after the publication of this report. I will cite a case report from Yakazu.

The patient was a 4-month old girl. One and a half month after birth apparently itchy erythematous lesions developed on the head, that were associated with copious secretions and the skin started to peel off. The regions affected gradually increased in size and by the time of the first consultation had spread to the back, the entire abdomen and buttocks. At a department of dermatology the condition was diagnosed as pediatric seborrheic eczema and treated, but did not improve. Following administration of *jizusoippo* half of the erythematous lesions disappeared after about one month, 2 months later approximately 80% had healed and after 3 months the condition had healed almost completely. Since the administration of the drug appetite increased, the infant gained weight and thrived⁷⁾.

This formula is currently also used for adult seborrheic eczema. It is indicated for erythematous lesions developing on the head and face.

Yamamoto et al. administered this formula to 10

patients (adults) with seborrheic eczema and reported a marked improvement in 3, improvements in 2 and no changes in 3 patients³⁾.

3. Furunculosis

This formula is often effective for the treatment of erythematous lesions of the head, regardless of the diseases causing them.

A dermatologist referred a middle-aged man with furuncles continuously developing on the head non-responsive to treatment with antibiotics to Terutane Yamada, who advised the patient to take this formula. After about 1 months of administration the patient had almost completely recovered⁸⁾.

References

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