Failure in Oral Treatment of Hemophilia by Huang-lien-chieh-tu-tang (Plant Extract), One of the Kanpo Medicines

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Dear Sir,

Huang-lien-chieh-tu-tang (HLCT) plant extract is one of the Kanpo medicines (traditional Japanese medicine) and is believed to possess anti-inflammatory and hemostatic properties. In Haemostasis [13: 78–82, 1983], Ada-chihara reported that 1 h after oral administration of HLCT extract (0.15 g/kg) in a patient with severe hemophilia A, factor VIII rose from less than 1 to 41 %, and the activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) decreased from 102.0 to 70.9 s. We wanted to verify the biologic affective-ness of oral administration of HLCT extract at a dosage of 0.15 g/kg in 6 hemophiliacs: 2 patients with severe hemophilia A (factor VIII < 1 %); 2 patients with mild hemophiliaA; 2 patients with Christmas disease (factor IX < 1 %).

1 We thank Prof. Y. Izuchi for providing us with HLCT.

Controls were done far from a bleeding episode, and not treated with factor VIII (or factor IX) for at least 10 days.

Factor VIII activity was measured by 1-stage and 2-stage assays, before, 1 h after, and 24 h after taking HLCT.

Factor IX activity was measured by 1-stage factor IX assay in the 2 hemophiliacs B, before, 1 h after, and 24 h after taking HLCT.

APTT and thrombelastograph (TEG) were performed before and 1 h after taking HLCT.

Results are shown in tables I and II.

Conclusion

In 6 hemophiliacs (2 with severe hemophilia A, 2 with mild hemophilia A, and 2 with severe Christmas disease), factor VIII and factor IX activity, APTT and TEG were not modified by oral administration of HLCT at a dosage of 0.15 g/kg.

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Table I

Patient Type Age Factor VIII activity, %
years

before after 1

2 1 2

Factor IX activity (1-stage), %after 24 h before after 1 h after 24 h

1	2	1				
A.C. A mild	21	8	5	10		
6	10	5				
R.N. A mild	16	1	1			
1	1					
J.D. A severe	18	<1	<1	<1		
F.M. A severe	14	<1	<1	<1		
<1	<1	<1				
G.JP. B	16	120	130	124		
130	110	120	<1	<1	<1	
P.M. B	16	120	105	116		
110	110	110	<1	<1	<1	
Table II						
Patient	Type	Age	APTT, s			
years						
control	patient					
before	after	1				
A.C. A mild	21	32	53	54		
TEG						
before	1 h after					
r, min	k, min	am, mm	r, min	k, min	am, mm	
10	11	29	12	9	31	
R.N. A mild	16	32	53	50		
16	7	40	13	8	38	
J.D. A severe	18	32	72	76		
13	6	43	17	5	43	
F.M. A severe	14	32	72	80		
31	8.5	45	32	8.5	42	
G.JP. B	16	31	53	60		
12	7	39	12	8	38	
P.M. B	16	31	86	88		