

HUANG LIAN JIE DU WAN BP049

Coptis & Scute Formula 黃連解毒丸

TCM ACTIONS

Drains Fire and Damp-Heat, resolves Heat Toxin

TCM SYNDROMES

Excess Heat, Damp-Heat or Heat Toxin.

INDICATIONS

Acute enteritis, bacillary dysentery, pelvic infections, cellulitis, urinary tract infection, purulent skin lesions, abscess.

SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

(key clinical features in bold)

Fever

Dry mouth and throat

General malaise

Irritability and restlessness

Vexation

Insomnia

Purulent skin lesions

Suppurative infections

Red tongue with a yellow coat

Rapid and/or forceful pulse

INGREDIENTS

Each pill contains extract equiv. to dry:

Coptis chinensis, root (<i>huang lian</i>)	黃連	112.5mg
Scutellaria baicalensis, root (<i>huang qin</i>)	黃芩	75mg
Phellodendron amurense, stem bark (<i>huang bai</i>)	黃柏	75mg
Gardenia jasminoides, fruit (<i>shan zhi zi</i>)	山梔子	112.5mg

ACTIONS OF THE MAIN HERBS

Coptis root is used orally in formulas to treat acute infectious diseases (e.g. dysentery, furunculosis, abscesses) as well as various stomach disorders including halitosis, gastric reflux and belching. It has been shown to have antibacterial, antiviral, antifungal and anti-amoebic actions.

Gardenia fruit is used orally in formulas to treat acute febrile illnesses, jaundice, epistaxis, hematuria and metrorrhagia. It has been shown to have hypotensive, hemostatic, hepatoprotective, cholagogue, antipyretic, mild sedative and mild laxative actions.

DOSAGE & COURSE OF TREATMENT

8 - 12 pills, 3 times daily, half to one hour away from food.

In severe cases and in the early stages of treatment (first 1 – 2 weeks) the dosage may be increased by 50 - 100%.

Course of treatment: 2 – 6 weeks

Not suitable for long term use.

CAUTIONS & CONTRAINDICATIONS

Caution for those on anti-coagulant medications (i.e. Heparin, warfarin or aspirin).

Contraindicated during pregnancy.

Caution for patients with poor digestion.

COMBINATIONS

• Acute gastritis or gastroduodenal ulcer:

+ Xiao Yao San (Bupleurum & Dang-gui Formula BP031)

• Bacterial dysentery – acute:

+ Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)

+ Huo Xiang Zheng Qi Wan (Agastache Formula BP046)

• Inflammatory skin lesions – acute:

+ Long Dan Xie Gan Tang (Gentiana Formula BP016)

+ Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)

• Urinary tract infection, severe:

+ Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)

COMMENTS
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This formula was first recorded in 'Medical Secrets of an Official' (*wai tai mi yao*), by Wang Tao, 752 CE, a work in 40 volumes that covers every branch of medicine and contains over 6,000 formulas. It was originally used for severe conditions in which a virulent pathogen – Heat Toxin or Fire Toxin – pervades the Triple Jiao and thus affects all the bodily systems. This would generally equate with an acute medical emergency, such as septicemia or pyemia. For this reason the original formula had quite a large dose of Coptis (*huang lian*) – about one third more than that of each of the other ingredients.

However, in modern formulations the dosage of this ingredient is reduced so that it is about one third less than that of the other ingredients. This is in keeping with the broader clinical applications for which it is now more commonly used. The three 'yellow' herbs in this formula (Coptis, Scutellaria and Phellodendron) contain a variety of potent alkaloids (including berberine) as well as flavonoids and flavone glycosides, which provide broad spectrum antimicrobial action as well as anti-inflammatory and antipyretic effects. It is therefore suitable for treating a variety of acute infections that may or may not be accompanied by systemic signs and symptoms.

The synergistic actions of the herbs are as follows:

- Coptis root (*huang lian*): clears Damp-Heat, purges Fire from the Heart and from the middle Jiao.
- Scutellaria root (*huang qin*): clears Damp-Heat and purges Fire from the middle Jiao
- Phellodendron stem bark (*huang bai*): clears Damp-Heat and purges Fire from the lower Jiao
- Gardenia fruit (*shan zhi zi*): drains Heat or Fire from the whole of the Triple Jiao, clears Damp-Heat and promotes diuresis, clears Heat Toxin.