Artemisia & Rhubarb Combination 茵陳蒿丸(加味)

## **TCM ACTIONS**

Clears Damp-Heat, soothes the Liver and drains the Gallbladder.

## **TCM SYNDROMES**

Damp-Heat in the Liver and Gall Bladder

## **INDICATIONS**

Fatty liver (steatohepatitis), cholecystitis, gallstones, hepatitis, hepatic cirrhosis, obesity.

#### SIGNS & SYMPTOMS (key clinical features in bold)

Sensation of fullness and pain of the chest and hypochondrium (mainly right side) Fever or alternating fever and chills Scanty dark urine Bitter taste in the mouth Loss of appetite Nausea or vomiting Jaundice Abdominal distension Thirst with inability to drink much fluid Tongue is red with yellow greasy coat Pulse rapid and wiry or rapid and slippery

## **INGREDIENTS**

Each pill contains extract equiv. to dry:		
Artemisia frigida, herb (yin chen hao)	茵陳蒿	75.0 mg
Lysimachia christinae, herb <i>(jin qian cao)</i>	金錢草	75.0 mg
Taraxacum mongolicum, herb (pu gong ying)	蒲公英	37.5 mg
Gardenia jasminoides, fruit <i>(shan zhi zi)</i>	山梔子	30.0 mg
Abrus cantoniensis, herb ( <i>ji gu cao</i> )	雞骨草	30.0 mg
Alisma orientale, rhiz. <i>(ze xie)</i>	澤瀉	30.0 mg
Crataegus pinnatifida, fruit <i>(shan zha)</i>	山楂	30.0 mg
Curcuma longa, tuber <i>(yu jin)</i>	郁金	22.5 mg
Rheum palmatum, root & rhiz. (da huang)	大黃	22.5 mg
Citrus aurantium, fruit <i>(zhi shi)</i>	枳實	22.5 mg

# **ACTIONS OF THE MAIN HERBS**

Artemisia herb is used orally in formulas to treat various inflammatory conditions of the liver, gallbladder and stomach as well as hypercholesterolemia and urticaria. It has been shown to have the following actions: cholagogue, hepatoprotective, antilipemic, reduces atherosclerosis, increases coronary blood flow, bacteriostatic and anticoagulant.

Rheum root & rhizome (rhubarb) is used orally in formulas to treat constipation, febrile illnesses, dysentery, hepatitis, intestinal abscess, and traumatic injury. It has been shown to have the following actions: anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral, purgative, hypotensive, anticholesterolemic, cholagogue, antiuremic and hemostatic actions.

## **DOSAGE & COURSE OF TREATMENT**

8 - 15 pills, 3 times daily, half to one hour away from food. In severe cases and in the early stages of treatment (first 2-3 weeks) the dosage may be increased by 50 - 100%.

Course of treatment: 3 to 6 months.

# **CAUTIONS & CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Avoid coffee, deep fried foods, fatty food, alcohol.

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

Caution with patients on: diuretics, non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), cardiotonic glycosides, antiarrhythmic drugs, laxatives.

# **COMBINATIONS**

- Acne (select one or more):
- + Qing Re An Chuang Wan (Salvia & Scute Formula BP079) + Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)
- + Long Dan Xie Gan Tang (Gentiana Formula BP016)
- · Acute cholecystitis (select one):
- + Xiao Chai Hu Wan (Minor Bupleurum Formula BP029) + Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)
- Acute cystitis or urinary tract infection (severe, due to Damp-Heat in the Bladder):

+ Ba Zheng San (Dianthus Combination BP040)

- + Si Miao Yong An Wan (Lonicera & Scrophularia Formula BP059)
- Acute hepatitis:

+ Xiao Chai Hu Wan (Minor Bupleurum Formula BP029)



- Fatty liver (select one or more):
  + Nei Xiao Luo Li Wan (Prunella & Scrophularia Formula BP043)
- + Li Dan Pai Shi Wan (Lysimachia & Artemisia Formula BP074)
- Obesity (select one):
  - + Wu Ling San (Hoelen Five Formula BP063)
  - + Li Dan Pai Shi Wan (Lysimachia & Artemisia Formula BP074)
  - + Tao Hong Si Wu Wan (Persica, Carthamus & Dang-gui Combination BP061)

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This is a variant of a formula that was originally recorded in the 'Treatise on Cold-induced Diseases' (*shang han lun*), by Zhang Zhong-jing (circa 150 – 219 C.E.). The original was intended to be used for Bright Yang syndrome (*yang ming bing zheng*) with jaundice due to the presence of Damp-Heat.

The Damp and Heat combine to form a Damp-Heat complex that accumulates and affects the Spleen in addition to the Bright Yang Fu organs (Stomach and Large Intestine). The Damp-Heat 'steams' the Gallbladder, resulting in the escape of bile, which causes jaundice.

The original formula contains only three herbs, which subsequent generations of physicians have used as the basis for designing formulas that treat different clinical presentations with jaundice.

This variant has been enhanced with seven additional herbs in order to broaden the therapeutic scope of the original formula in the treatment of various Liver and Gallbladder diseases as well as certain metabolic disorders – all centred on the accumulation of Damp-Heat.

The synergistic actions of the herbs are as follows:

- Artemisia frigida, herb (*yin chen hao*), Lysimachia christinae, herb (*jin qian cao*), Gardenia jasminoides, fruit (*shan zhi zi*), Abrus cantoniensis, herb (*ji gu cao*), Taraxacum mongolicum, herb (*pu gong ying*), Rheum root & rhizome (*da huang*): clear and purge Damp-Heat, resolve jaundice
- Alisma orientale, rhiz. (ze xie): promotes diuresis to drain Damp
- Curcuma longa, tuber (*yu jin*), Crataegus fruit (*shan zha*), Citrus, fruit (*zhi shi*): disperse stagnant Liver Qi and drain the Gallbladder
- Lysimachia christinae, herb (*jin qian cao*), Curcuma longa, tuber (*yu jin*), Artemisia frigida, herb (*yin chen hao*), Rheum root & rhizome (*da huang*): clear the Gallbladder and expel gallstones