

Brief Discussion on Application of *Glycyrrhiza Uralensis Fisch* (Gan Cao) in Treatise on Febrile Diseases (Shang Han Lun)

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ABSTRACT

Among 113 prescriptions in Shang Han Lun, Gan Cao is the herb that is being used the most compare with the others. There are 70 prescriptions that containing Gan Cao, which 68 of them containing Zhi Gan Cao while only 2 of them containing Sheng Gan Cao.

OBJECTIVES: Briefly discuss the applications of Gan Cao in prescriptions in Shang Han Lun that containing Gan Cao by reviewing different functions of Sheng Gan Cao and Zhi Gan Cao, studying the role of Gan Cao in eight different methods of treatment, and discovering different dosage of Gan Cao serve for different purposes. Besides that, it aims to determine prohibitions of applications of Gan Cao by studying those Shang Han's prescriptions that without Gan Cao. Furthermore, this research is aimed to find out some modern applications of Gan Cao that applied the theory of Zhang Zhong Jing in using Gan Cao. **METHODS:** This research is applied analyzing and calculating methods of the journals and literature reviews that related to it, so that concluded out the actions, dosages, prohibitions, and roles of Gan Cao in Eight Different Methods of treatment. **RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:** Zhi Gan Cao uses its sweet taste to tonify, to harmonize, to regulate, to moderate, to nourish, and to warm; while Sheng Gan Cao is important to clear heat, benefit the throat, and relieve toxicity. Even though there are no obvious Eight Different Methods of Treatment in Shang Han Lun, however, they are being implied indirectly. For example, Ma Huang Tang and Gui Zhi Tang which apply the sweating method, Tiao Wei Cheng Qi Tang which apply purging method, Xiao Chai Hu Tang which apply harmonizing method, Li Zhong Tang which apply warming method, Bai Hu Tang which apply clearing method, Zhi Gan Cao Tang which apply tonifying method, and Ling Gui Zhu Gan Tang which apply resolving method. Examples that being pointed out above are those prescriptions in Shang Han Lun that containing Gan Cao where Gan Cao carries out different roles in Eight Different Methods of Treatment. Besides that, there are four main levels in dosage of Gan Cao that being used in Shang Han Lun: one ounce is mainly compatible with Ma Huang, Xing Ren, and Gui Zhi, it acts to control the sweating effect of Ma Huang; two ounce is mainly compatible with Gui Zhi, Shao Yao, Zhi Mu, Shi Gao, Fu Zi, and Gan Jiang, it acts to warm yang, benefit qi, and nourish yin. It can also resolve toxicity of Fu Zi, and prevent heat pathogenic factor from consuming qi; three ounce of Gan Cao is mainly compatible with Ban Xia and Ren Shen, such as Xiao Chai Hu Tang and Xie Xin Tang that applicable to use in vomiting at middle burner; four ounce of Gan Cao is mainly compatible with Gan Jiang to tonify and moderate emergency, applicable to treat those acute, palpitation, and downward-pouring syndrome. Gan Cao is prohibited to be used when there is emergency condition, internal excess heat syndrome, phlegm accumulation, unsmooth Qi mechanism, water-dampness in Lower Burner, the Middle Burner is not deficient, and is antagonized with other herbs.

Key words: 甘草; 伤寒论; 张仲景; 功效; 配伍