

## Ectopic Pregnancy

### **"The Chinese Herbal Treatment of Ectopic Pregnancy" by Cui Hua-ming et al., *Si Chuan Zhong Yi (Sichuan Chinese Medicine)*, #7, 1993, p. 43**

In this clinical audit, the authors report on the treatment of 10 cases of ectopic pregnancy seen from June 1990-March 1991. The women ranged in age from 23-35 years old. Their periods had ceased but there was irregular bleeding from the vagina and abdominal pain. Urine pregnancy tests were positive for eight cases and negative for two. The diagnosis of ectopic pregnancy was derived by physical examination.

The treatment method consisted of two formulas. Formula 1: Radix Trichosanthis Kirlowii (*Tian Hua Fen*), 30g, Scolopendra Subspinipes (*Wu Gong*), 2 pieces, Radix Salviae Miltiorrhizae (*Dan Shen*), 15g, Rhizoma Sparganii (*San Leng*), Rhizoma Curcumae Zedoariae (*E Zhu*), Semen Pruni Persicae (*Tao Ren*), Radix Aucklandiae Lappae (*Mu Xiang*), Rhizoma Cyperi Rotundi (*Xiang Fu*), and Flos Carthami Tinctorii (*Hong Hua*), 10g each, processed Resina Olibani (*Ru Xiang*) and Resina Myrrhae (*Mo Yao*), 8g each, Herba Leonuri Heterophylli (*Yi Mu Cao*), 20g, and uncooked Radix Glycyrrhizae (*Gan Cao*), 6g.

Formula 2: Radix Salviae Miltiorrhizae (*Dan Shen*), 15g, Radix Rubrus Paeoniae Lactiflorae (*Chi Shao*), Radix Ligustici Wallichii (*Chuan Xiong*), Rhizoma Corydalis Yanhusuo (*Yuan Hu*), and Cortex Cinnamomi Cassiae (*Gui Pi*), 9g each, Rhizoma Sparganii (*San Leng*), Rhizoma Curcumae Zedoariae (*E Zhu*), Semen Pruni Persicae (*Tao Ren*), and Sclerotium Poriae Cocos (*Yun Ling*), 6g each. If there was qi vacuity, Radix Astragali Membranacei (*Huang Qi*), 9g, and cooked Radix Rehmanniae (*Shu Di*), 15g, were added. If there was flooding and leaking (*i.e.*, uterine bleeding), *Shi Xiao San*

(Loss of Smile Powder) was added. During administration of Formula 1, when urine pregnancy tests turned negative or serological markers had lowered on two occasions, Formula 1 was stopped and Formula 2 was administered instead. Formula 1 kills the embryo, quickens the blood, and stops pain, while Formula 2 is for the purpose of quickening static blood, stopping pain, and freeing the flow of the network vessels.

In this study, cure was defined as disappearance of the clinical manifestations as well as the physical manifestations revealed on examination. After administering Formula 1 for three days, three cases' urine pregnancy text turned negative, with another five cases turning negative after five days administration. Nine cases were hospitalized for an average of 21 days for complete cure to be affected. One case was hospitalized for two months because of encysted blood accumulations on both sides of her abdomen which reabsorbed slowly.

### **"The Treatment of 15 Cases of Ectopic Pregnancy with *Yi Qi Huo Xue Tang* (Boost the Qi & Quicken the Blood Decoction)" by Ha Xiao-lian & Peng Hui-min, *Tian Jin Zhong Yi (Tianjin Chinese Medicine)*, #3, 1993, p. 12-13**

In this clinical audit, 15 cases of ectopic pregnancy were treated with *Yi Qi Huo Xue Tang*. Four of the women were between 24-26 years of age, eight were between 27-30, and three were between 31-35 years old. In addition, eight were primiparas, six had been pregnant twice, and one had been pregnant three times. Thirteen of the women had tubal pregnancies, one women had a uterine angle pregnancy, and one woman had an abdominal cavity pregnancy.

The formula used consisted of: Radix Angelicae Sinensis (*Dang Gui*), 9g, Radix Rubrus Paeoniae

Lactiflorae (*Chi Shao Yao*), 9g, uncooked Pollen Typhae (*Pu Huang*), 9g, Resina Olibani (*Ru Xiang*), 6g, mix-fried Resina Myrrhae (*Mo Yao*), 6g, Radix Linderae Strychnifoliae (*Wu Yao*), 9g, Rhizoma Cyperi Rotundi (*Xiang Fu*), 10g, Rhizoma Sparganii (*San Leng*) and Rhizoma Curcumae Zedoariae (*E Zhu*), 9g each, Radix Codonopsis Pilosulae (*Dang Shen*), 15g, Radix Salviae Miltiorrhizae (*Dan Shen*), 15g, and Radix Trichosanthis Kirlowii (*Tian Hua Fen*), 12g. These were decocted in 300 ml and administered one *ji* per day. The purpose of this formula was to boost the qi and nourish the blood, quicken the blood and transform stasis, and to rectify the qi and stop pain.

If abdominal pain was severe, Feces Trogopteroi Seu Pteromi (*Ling Zhi*), 10g, was added and Lindera was increased to 15g. If hemorrhaging was excessive, Sparganium and Zedoaria were removed and Herba Leonuri Heterophylli (*Yi Mu Cao*), 15g, was added. If the appetite was poor, stir-fried Fructus Germinatus Hordei Vulgaris (*Mai Ya*), 10g, and Endothelium Corneum Gigeriae Galli (*Nei Jin*), 6g, were added. And if there was constipation, Radix Et Rhizoma Rhei (*Da Huang*), 10g, or Folium Sennae (*Fan Xie Ye*), 3 g, were added.

Of the 15 cases so treated, all were completed cured except for one who was hemorrhaging greatly and received surgery. In their concluding discussion, the authors say that Red Peony, Dang Gui, Pollen Typhae, and Salvia quicken the blood and transform stasis, free the flow of the channels and stop pain. Frankincense, Myrrh, Sparganium, Zedoaria, Lindera, and Cyperus move the qi and break stasis, stop pain and disperse the conglomerations. Together, Codonopsis and Salvia supplement the qi and nourish the blood. The authors also say that ectopic pregnancy is usually a simultaneous vacuity and repletion condition, although repletion is dominant. If blood-quickening, stasis-transforming, and conglomeration-dispersing medicinals are used exclusively, the qi will follow the discharge of the blood. Therefore, in the treatment of this condition, it is essential to prevent the qi and blood from both becoming vacuous. The old Chinese doctor, Ha Li-tian, has pointed out that in this disease,

"While treating by quickening the blood and transforming stasis, it is essential to use Fructus Germinatus Hordei Vulgaris, Fructus Crataegi (*Shan Zha*), Endothelium Corneum Gigeriae Galli, and other such medicinals to rectify the spleen and stomach, increase food and drink, and thus support the righteous while simultaneously transforming stasis and scattering nodulation."

**"The Treatment of 21 Cases of Ectopic Pregnancy with Quickening the Blood & Transforming Stasis Method" by Jia Ying, *Jiang Su Zhong Yi (Jiangsu Chinese Medicine)*, #9, 1993, p.15-16**

The author begins this report by stating that traditionally this condition was discussed under lower abdominal depression of blood, concretions and conglomerations, falling fetus, etc. If, for some reason, surgery cannot be used to treat this condition, the methods of quickening the blood and transforming stasis may be resorted to. Of the 21 cases treated by these means by the author, six were between 23-30 years of age and 15 between 31-42. There were 16 cases of fallopian tube pregnancy, four cases of ovarian pregnancy, and one case of uterine cervix pregnancy. The author attributes this condition to a number of factors, such as lack of regulation of the *chong* and *ren* resulting in stasis and stagnation blocking and obstructing the *chong mai* and post-surgical obstruction and stagnation of the *bao mai*, all of which result in a blood stasis repletion pattern or blood stasis in the lower abdomen pattern. Based on this diagnosis, the author says that the treatment principles are to quicken the blood and transform stasis, soften the hard and stop pain.

The formula employed is called *Huo Luo Xiao Ling Dan Jia Wei* (Quickening the Connecting Vessels Miraculously Effective Elixir with Added Flavors). It was comprised of: Radix Rubrus Paeoniae Lactiflorae (*Chi Shao*), Semen Pruni Persicae (*Tao Ren*), Resina Olibani (*Ru Xiang*), Resina Myrrhae (*Mo Yao*), Rhizoma Sparganii (*San Leng*), and Rhizoma Curcumae Zedoariae (*E Zhu*).

If there was heat, Flos Lonicerae Japonicae (*Yin*

*Hua*), Fructus Forsythiae Suspensae (*Lian Qiao*), Herba Taraxaci Mongolici Cum Radice (*Pu Gong Ying*), and Caulis Sargentodoxae (*Hong Teng*) were added. If there was cold, Fructus Evodiae Rutecarpae (*Wu Zhu*) and Ramulus Cinnamomi Cassiae (*Gui Zhi*) were added. If there was bowel repletion (*i.e.*, constipation), Radix Et Rhizoma Rhei (*Da Huang*) and Mirabilitum (*Mang Xiao*) were added. If there was abdominal pain, Pollen Typhae (*Pu Huang*), Feces Troglodyteris Seu Pteromi (*Ling Zhi*), and Rhizoma Corydalis Yanhusuo (*Yan Hu*) were added. If there was discharge of copious blood, Radix Rubiae Cordifoliae (*Qian Cao Gen*), Crinis Carbonisatus (*Xue Yu Tan*), and carbonized Fructus Crataegi (*Shan Zha*) were added. If there was qi vacuity, Radix Astragali Membranacei (*Huang Qi*) and Radix Codonopsis Pilosulae (*Dang Shen*) were added. If the embryo was not dead, Radix Trichosanthis Kirilowii (*Tian Hua Fen*) or Scolopendra Subspinipes (*Wu Gong*) was added. If the absorption and assimilation of the bloody swelling was delayed, Flos Carthami Tinctorii (*Hong Hua*), Squama Manitis Pentadactylis (*Chuan Shan Jia*), and Semen Vaccariae Segetalis (*Wang Bu Liu Xing*) were added. If there was nausea and vomiting, Pericarpium Citri Reticulatae (*Chen Pi*) and Rhizoma Pinelliae Ternatae (*Ban Xia*) were added. And if intake (*i.e.*, appetite) was below normal, Massa Medica Fermentata (*Shen Qu*) and Endothelium Corneum Gigeriae Galli (*Ji Nei Jin*) were added.

In this study, complete cure was defined as disappearance of the signs and symptoms of this condition, disappearance of lower abdominal pain, cessation of blood flowing from the vaginal tract, the menses returning to normal, and serum pregnancy indicators either disappearing or being reduced by 2/3. Based on these criteria, the author reports that all 21 cases were completely cured. The author also says that, in the treatment of this disease, it is typically not appropriate to use heavy doses of blood-stopping medicinals since these might impede the assimilation and reabsorption of static blood.

**"The Treatment of 40 Cases of Unruptured Fallopian Tube Pregnancy by Quickening the Blood & Transforming Stasis" by Wu Lian-zhen, Zhe Jiang Zhong Yi Za Zhi (Zhejiang Journal of Chinese Medicine), #7, 1993, p. 304-305**

Dr. Wu begins this report on the treatment of ectopic pregnancy by saying that the methods of quickening the blood and transforming stasis were used in order to promote miscarriage. Thirty women in this study were between 23-28 years of age and 10 were over 30 with the oldest being 50 years old. In three cases, their menstruation had ceased less than 35 days previously. In 28 cases, their menses had ceased between 35-40 days before, in seven cases 41-45 days before, and in two cases more than 46 days before. Pregnancy was confirmed by cessation of menstruation, urine test, serum tests, lower abdominal distention and pain, and pelvic examinations. Based on these criteria, all the women in this group were diagnosed as suffering from tubal pregnancy.

The author states that tubal pregnancy may be due to the three causes of 1) the seven affects (*i.e.*, emotions), 2) the six wanton (evils), and 3) external injury. These injure and damage the *chong* and *ren* so that they do not flow smoothly and uninhibited. The *chong* and *ren* become obstructed and stagnant and accumulating blood becomes conglomerations and concretions. Therefore, appropriate treatment should quicken the blood, transform stasis, and disperse conglomeration, course and rectify the *chong* and *ren* and regulate the menstruation.

The medicinals used for these purposes were: Radix Salviae Miltiorrhizae (*Dan Shen*), Radix Rubrus Paeoniae Lactiflorae (*Chi Shao*), Rhizoma Sparganii (*San Leng*), and Rhizoma Curcumae Zedoariae (*E Zhu*), 15g @, and Semen Pruni Persicae (*Tao Ren*), Resina Olibani (*Ru Xiang*), and Resina Myrrhae (*Mo Yao*), 10g each.

If the tongue was pale with white fur and the pulse was deep and slow, Cortex Cinnamomi Cassiae (*Rou Gui*), 5g, and Radix Lateralis Praeparatus Aconiti Carmichaeli (*Fu Zi*), 10g,

were added. If the tongue was red with yellow fur and the pulse was bowstring and rapid, Flos Lonicerae Japonicae (*Yin Hua*) and Fructus Forsythiae Suspensae (*Lian Qiao*), 15g each, were added. If the abdomen was distended, Fructus Citri Aurantii (*Zhi Ke*) and Cortex Magnoliae Officinalis (*Hou Pu*), 5g each, were added, and, if there was constipation, uncooked Radix Et Rhizoma Rhei (*Da Huang*), 10g, was added.

After administration of from 10-30 *ji* of the above medicinals, 36 cases were cured, meaning their urine pregnancy tests turned negative, their

serum pregnancy markers disappeared, and their menses returned to normal. Four cases experienced no result. In other words, their urine pregnancy tests remained positive, their serum pregnancy markers remained, the lumps in their abdomen increased in size, or their tubes ruptured. Among the cases which experienced no result, three were treated surgically when their urine and serum tests did not change and the lumps in their abdomen grew larger. The other case experienced rupture of their tube and fever, at which time they were also treated surgically.

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