

## Chinese herbal medicine may be of benefit for angina

<b>Clinical question</b>	How effective is the Chinese herbal medicine <i>suxiao jiuxin wan</i> in the treatment of angina pectoris?
<b>Bottom line</b>	<i>Suxiao jiuxin wan</i> alone or in combination with other anti-anginal drugs showed weak evidence of a reduction in symptoms of angina and an improvement in ECG measurements. No serious side effects were identified.
<b>Caveat</b>	Methodological concerns included lack of concealment of allocation, lack of blinding, lack of statistical power, lack of information on hazards of treatment, and lack of other clinically relevant outcomes. Only a small number of studies were included in the review, and all of these were conducted in China.
<b>Context</b>	In western medicine, angina is usually treated with beta blockers, nitrates and calcium channel blockers. <i>Suxiao jiuxin wan</i> is a new drug on the national essential drug list of China for the treatment of cardiocerebral vascular disease. It has been reported to cause remission of angina, improve anginal symptoms, and reduce the use of nitrates. It may be used on its own or in conjunction with conventional anti-anginal treatments.
<b>Cochrane Systematic Review</b>	Duan X et al. Chinese herbal medicine <i>suxiao jiuxin wan</i> for angina pectoris. <i>Cochrane Reviews</i> 2008, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD004473. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004473.pub2. This review contains 15 trials involving 1,776 participants.
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