

Gastrointestinal Symptoms Overlap of Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders and Development of Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) Scale

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ABSTRACT The phenomenon of gastrointestinal symptoms overlap of functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs) is very common clinically, for different types of FGIDs have the common pathomechanism. When treating single FGID, Chinese medicine regards stomach and intestine as part of the whole gastrointestinal system: spleen and stomach. Based on the concept of holism, Chinese medicine integrates the symptom features of concrete diseases, and offers the comprehensive treatment. Thus, Chinese medicine has its advantages in treating gastrointestinal symptoms overlap of FGIDs. While current treatment evaluation tools of Chinese medicine treating FGIDs are mostly applied to one single disease. It is difficult to evaluate multi-layers and multi-dimensions treatment effect of Chinese medicine. Patient Reported Outcome (PRO) scale, which is based on cognition of integrity (universality) of FGIDs and characteristics (individuality) of a single disease, is a comprehensive evaluation tool and could reflect the characteristics of Chinese medicine treating FGIDs and evaluation better. Therefore, based on the disease characteristics of FGIDs, usually with gastrointestinal symptoms overlap and effect features of Chinese medicine entire regulation, developing PRO scale aiming at gastrointestinal symptoms overlap of FGIDs is essential for improving effect evaluation system.

Keywords functional gastrointestinal disorders; symptoms overlap; patient reported outcomes; downward transportation theory

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