

Data collection
Accept or reject hypothesis

Assessment
The 2nd, 4th, 8th, 16th, 20th, 24th weeks after
intervention

Treatment group

1. TWP
2. YSJB
3. MTX placebo
4. SSZ placebo

Control group

1. MTX
2. SSZ
3. TWP placebo
4. YSJB placebo

Double blind

Randomization (1:1)

RA Patients Enters 10 Clinics-Screening

Inclusion criteria: stage 1 inclusion criteria+ the group of symptoms selected in stage 1 trial

Stage 1

Assessment

To explore what groups of symptoms based on Chinese medicine theory is correlated with better efficacy (ACR20)

Tripterygium Wilfordii Polyglycoside Tablet + Yi Shen Juan Bi

TWP was prescribed at 10 mg, 3 times a day, immediately after meals.

YSJB was prescribed at 8 g, 3 times a day, immediately after meals.

RA Patients Enters 9 Clinics-Screening

Hypothesis: Disease-pattern based (disease-a-group of syndromes) method in trial design of Chinese herbal medicine can improve responses.

24 weeks

24 weeks