

Initial Recruitment of Potentially Eligible FC Patients
Assessed for eligibility (n=?)

1st Screening Inclusion Criteria

- a. either gender aged 18 to 65 years
- b. have FC diagnosed as Rome III criterial
- c. complete spontaneous bowel movement (CSBM) ≤ 2 times/wk;
- d. severity of constipation ≥ 3 pts (7 pts scale from 0 to 6pts) and the overall scoring of constipation-related symptoms ≥ 6 pts (6items in 7pts scale) for self-symptom assessment in the run-in period
- e. normal colonic evaluation (colonoscopy or barium enema) within 12 months
- f. normal liver and renal function in blood test within 3 months

1st Screening Exclusion Criteria

- a. drug-induced constipation
- b. secondary causes of constipation (i.e. medical history of diabetes mellitus and thyroid disease)
- c. abdominal surgery (i.e. Caesarean operation)
- d. severe diseases (i.e. cancer and acute present asthma);
- e. allergy to CHM (i.e. G6PD deficiency), senna and tartrazine
- f. pregnancy or breast-feeding;
- g. psychiatric or addictive disorders with medications which have side effects of constipation.

CM study team conduct 2nd screening using criteria of CM excessive syndrome

Baseline eligibility screening (Excluded n=?, reasons)

Baseline assessments (stool and symptoms diary and blood test, abdominal X-ray)

Randomization (n=291)

97 patients allocated to
Active MZRW
Placebo Senna x 8 wks

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Outcome assessments & 8-week post treatment follow up assessments.
Analyzed (n=?) Excluded from analysis (reasons) (n= ?)