



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
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**Initial Experience on Integrated Western and Chinese Medicine in palliation of patients with advanced Hepatobiliary-pancreatic malignancy in in-patient setting**

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**Introduction**

Hepatobiliary-pancreatic (HBP) malignancy is one of the common malignancies associated with grave prognosis. At the terminal stage of the disease, patients commonly suffered from the symptoms of end-stage liver failure and terminal malignancy. Conventional western medicine was usually ineffective in palliation of these symptoms. Because of its unique Chinese cultural background in Hong Kong, many of our patients would choose Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) as an alternate treatment to improve their quality of life.

**Objectives**

To review the safety and acceptance of in-patient Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine (ICWM) in palliation of advanced HBP malignancy in Tung Wah Hospital (TWH) surgical ward.

**Methodology**

A retrospective review of medical records of patients with advanced HBP malignancy receiving in-patient palliative ICWM from Mar, 2006 to Feb, 2007.

**Result**

Seventy-one patients including 62 males and 9 females with mean age of 60 were reviewed. Sixty-nine patients (97%) died from their terminal illness. Mean treatment duration was one month. The main reason for cessation of treatment was due to deterioration in general condition from their malignancy. Only fourteen patients (20%) developed minor side effects from TCM. No TCM drug incident was reported during the study period. Acceptance of ICWM is >80% to patients and their relatives. Conclusion: Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine in palliation was safe and feasible, and well accepted by patients and their relatives. However, further study is required to evaluate the effectiveness of TCM in palliative care.