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Randomized trial of a fixed combination (KanJang) of herbal extracts containing *Adhatoda vasica*, *Echinacea purpurea* and *Eleutherococcus senticosus* in patients with upper respiratory tract infections.

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The clinical efficacy of KanJang oral solution, a fixed combination of standardised extracts of *Echinacea purpurea*, *Adhatoda vasica* and *Eleutherococcus senticosus*, was compared with the combined extracts of *Echinacea purpurea* and *Eleutherococcus senticosus* alone (*Echinacea* mixture) in a controlled, double blind, randomized trial, and with Bromhexine (a standard treatment) in a controlled, open, randomized clinical trial on patients with non-complicated acute respiratory tract infections. Many of the parameters evaluated, such as severity of coughing, frequency of coughing, efficacy of mucus discharge in the respiratory tract, nasal congestion and a general feeling of sickness, showed significantly greater improvement in patients treated with KanJang compared with those receiving the standard treatment. However, no significant differences in the improvement of these symptoms (except in a reduced frequency of coughing) were observed between patients treated with the *Echinacea* mixture and those receiving the standard treatment. The only explanation is that the lack of extract of *A. vasica* in the *Echinacea* mixture reduces its efficacy compared with the complete KanJang oral solution even though direct double-blind comparison yielded no significant differences between these two groups of patients. The recovery time of patients being treated with KanJang or *Echinacea* mixture was 2 days shorter than that of patients receiving the standard treatment. None of the patients completing the study reported adverse reactions to the medication taken. The significance of the results obtained in this study is discussed with respect to the efficacy of KanJang in the treatment of acute respiratory infection and to the concept that multi-drug therapy offers higher efficacy compared with mono-drug treatment of such infections.

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