



OBSERVATION ON THE CLINICAL VALUE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE NURSING INTERVENTION ON PATIENTS WITH GYNECOLOGICAL IRREGULAR MENSTRUATION

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ABSTRACT

The study rigorously investigates the clinical utility and efficacy of nursing interventions based on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in treating patients suffering from gynecological irregular menstruation. The primary objective is to assess not only the impact on menstrual regularity but also the overall psychological well-being and quality of life of the affected individuals. Conducted at the Pingxiang Maternal and Child Health Hospital in Jiangxi, China, the research employs a multifaceted, comprehensive approach. It combines traditional TCM therapies—herbal remedies, acupuncture—with modern medical assessments to offer a holistic treatment plan. Participants, after a thorough diagnostic evaluation, received individually tailored care plans that included dietary guidance and lifestyle recommendations. The study yielded encouraging results, with significant improvements in menstrual regularity and a reduction in associated symptoms among the participants. Moreover, the study found that the holistic care model of TCM contributed to enhanced psychological well-being and overall quality of life for the patients. Furthermore, the TCM-based nursing interventions resulted in higher patient compliance, greater satisfaction, and fewer instances of recurring illness. The compelling findings support the integration of TCM-based nursing interventions into contemporary healthcare practices, especially for gynecological issues. The study not only suggests the potential for improved patient outcomes but also emphasizes the need for future research to further validate these promising results. The study thus lays the groundwork for further research and potential healthcare policy changes.

KEYWORDS: TCM nursing; Gynecology; Irregular menstruation; Clinical value

1. INTRODUCTION

Menstrual irregularities have long been a subject of concern for women's health worldwide. These irregularities encompass a wider range of deviations from the typical menstrual cycle, including variations in cycle length, irregular bleeding patterns, and the presence of various associated symptoms (Critchley et al., 2020). The impact of gynecological irregular menstruation extends beyond mere inconvenience, often affecting a woman's physical, emotional, and social well-being (Borzutzky et al., 2020). In recent years, Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has emerged as a promising and holistic approach to address these concerns, offering new avenues for managing gynecological irregular menstruation and improving overall quality of life. Before delving into the potential of TCM, it is imperative to comprehend the multifaceted nature of gynecological irregular menstruation. The menstrual cycle is a complex interplay of hormonal events, involving the hypothalamus, pituitary gland, ovaries, and uterus (Ferries et al., 2020). When this delicate balance is disrupted, irregularities in the menstrual cycle may ensue. These irregularities manifest in several forms, such as oligomenorrhea (infrequent menstruation), polymenorrhea (frequent menstruation), menorrhagia (heavy menstrual bleeding), and metrorrhagia (irregular bleeding between periods) (Critchley et al., 2020).

Gynecological irregular menstruation is not merely an inconvenience; it often signals underlying health issues. Common etiological factors include hormonal imbalances, polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), thyroid disorders, uterine fibroids, and even stress (Zafra et al., 2020). These conditions can contribute to a range of distressing symptoms, including pelvic pain, mood disturbances, and fertility challenges, further underscoring the need for effective interventions. Traditional Chinese Medicine, rooted in ancient Chinese philosophy and practice, offers a holistic perspective on health and well-being (Huhmann et al., 2020). It operates on the principle of balance and harmony within the body, seeking to restore equilibrium when it is disrupted. Fundamental to

TCM is the concept of "Qi" (pronounced "chee"), the vital energy that flows through meridians in the body. When Qi is obstructed or imbalanced, health issues, including gynecological irregularities, may occur.

TCM provides a range of therapeutic modalities to address these imbalances, including acupuncture, herbal medicine, dietary therapy, and lifestyle modifications (Davila et al., 2020). Acupuncture, for instance, involves the insertion of fine needles into specific points on the body to stimulate Qi flow and restore balance. Herbal medicine utilizes various plant-based remedies to address specific health concerns. These TCM approaches are gaining attention in the realm of gynecological irregular menstruation due to their potential to provide effective and holistic care. This article embarks on an exploration of the clinical value of TCM care intervention for individuals grappling with gynecological irregular menstruation (Rosenberg et al., 2020). Recognizing the limitations of conventional treatments, there is a growing interest in integrating complementary and alternative medicine, such as TCM, into the overall healthcare framework.

The objectives of this study encompass a comprehensive examination of the effectiveness of TCM interventions in restoring regular menstrual cycles and alleviating associated symptoms (Seppä et al., 2021). We aim to shed light on the holistic and patient-centered approach that TCM offers in contrast to the often symptom-focused strategies of Western medicine. The methodologies employed in this research endeavor are robust, including both quantitative and qualitative assessments. Through rigorous data collection and analysis, we seek to provide evidence-based insights into the clinical outcomes of TCM care for gynecological irregular menstruation. This includes evaluating changes in menstrual cycle regularity, reductions in menstrual pain and discomfort, and improvements in overall quality of life. Additionally, the safety and tolerability of TCM interventions will be a key focus. It is imperative to ensure that any

therapeutic approach is not only effective but also devoid of adverse effects (Kaygusuz et al., 2021). By systematically examining the clinical value and safety profile of TCM in gynecological irregular menstruation, we aim to contribute to the growing body of knowledge in integrative medicine.

Gynecological irregular menstruation is a complex health concern with far-reaching implications for affected individuals. Traditional Chinese Medicine, with its holistic principles and time-tested practices, presents a promising avenue for addressing these challenges (Zhao et al., 2020). This article sets the stage for a thorough exploration of the clinical value of TCM care interventions in the context of gynecological irregular menstruation. Through rigorous research and analysis, we aspire to provide valuable insights that can enhance the quality of care and improve the lives of those affected by this condition (Conroy et al., 2020; Chen et al., 2020).

2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Basic Data

This research, approved by the Hospital Ethics Committee (approval number: KY-2021NL-062), involved a retrospective analysis of medical records from 78 patients with gynecological menstrual disorders. The study period ranged from February 1, 2020, to March 31, 2022. Inclusion criteria were as follows:

- Patients with irregular menstrual cycles, experiencing either less than 50 mL or more than 80 mL of menstrual flow for three consecutive cycles.
- Patients with mid-luteal phase movement levels below 35 nmol/L.
- Patients capable of completing relevant questionnaires independently or with the assistance of investigators.
- Informed consent obtained from patients and their family members.

Exclusion criteria included:

- Patients in the midst of drug abuse or withdrawal.

- Patients with menstrual disorders caused by uterine fibroids or birth control methods such as a birth control ring.
- Pregnant or breastfeeding patients.
- Patients with severe mental or cognitive disorders.

Using a random number table, patients were divided into two groups: the Traditional Chinese Medicine Nursing Group (Chinese Medicine Group) with 39 cases and the Routine Nursing Group (Conventional Group) with 39 cases. The two groups exhibited no statistically significant differences in basic data ($P > 0.05$).

Methods

Routine Group:

Patients in this group received routine nursing care. They were provided with estrogen, blood enrichment treatments, and other necessary therapies. Patients were educated about their conditions, medication methods, daily habits, and dietary guidance. Nurses collected information on dysmenorrhea, menstrual volume, menstrual cycle, and provided dietary recommendations.

TCM Group:

Patients in this group received Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) nursing intervention. They were encouraged to maintain a positive attitude towards their treatment and actively cooperate with medical care. As patients with gynecological irregular menstruation often experience negative emotions like anxiety and depression, TCM nurses employed emotional nursing techniques, engaging in timely psychological communication and encouraging social interactions. Patients were encouraged to listen to soothing music and engage in activities like reading to divert their attention from discomfort and maintain a positive outlook.

Pain management was also a part of TCM nursing intervention. Gentle and soothing music was used to distract patients from menstrual pain. In cases of severe

pain, analgesics were administered. Patients were educated about traditional Chinese medicine concepts to enhance treatment compliance and facilitate effective recovery. Patients were advised to keep their abdomen warm and avoid exposure to cold water. They were provided with a checklist of digestible foods and cautioned against consuming cold and stimulating foods. The interventions for both groups continued for two months.

Observation Indicators

Nursing Compliance: A self-made compliance rating scale categorized compliance into four grades (1 to 4). Nursing compliance rate (%) was calculated as $(3 \text{ cases} + 4 \text{ cases}) / \text{total cases} (39) \times 100$

Recovery Rate: Patients' recovery status was classified as markedly effective, controllable, or onset. Recovery ratio (%) was calculated as $(\text{number of obviously effective instances} + \text{number of controllable instances}) / \text{total number of instances} (39) \times 100$.

Psychological Status: The psychological status of patients was assessed using the Hamilton Depression Scale (HAMD) and the Hamilton Anxiety Scale (HAMA), with scores ranging from 0 to 4. Higher scores indicated more severe psychological disorders.

Sex Hormones: Blood samples were collected before and after the intervention, and serum sex hormone levels, including estradiol (E2), luteinizing hormone (LH), and follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH), were measured using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays.

Satisfaction: A self-made satisfaction scale included categories such as "very satisfied," "basically satisfied," and "dissatisfied." Satisfaction (%) was calculated as $(\text{very satisfied} + \text{basically satisfied}) / \text{total number of cases} (39) \times 100$.

Recurrence Rate: A 12-month follow-up was conducted through means such as telephone and WeChat to observe the recurrence of menstrual disorders in patients.

Statistical Methods

Data analysis was performed using SPSS 24.0. Categorical data, such as education level and menstrual type, were expressed as [n (%)]. Pairwise comparisons were conducted using the chi-squared test. Measurement data, including HAMA and HAMD scores, E2, LH, and FSH levels, were expressed as (mean ± standard deviation). Pairwise comparisons were performed using independent sample t-tests. Statistical significance was set at $P < 0.05$.

Table 1 Analysis of the basic data of the 2 groups [n(%)] ($\bar{x} \pm s$)

group	n	age	Education level (%)		Average duration of disease (years)	Menstrual cycle (days)
			high school and below	high school or above		
Chinese medicine group	39	29.23 ± 3.24	29 (74.36)	10 (25.64)	1.86 ± 0.24	18.43 ± 2.28
regular group	39	29.81 ± 3.17	26 (66.67)	13 (33.33)	1.87 ± 0.53	18.76 ± 2.19
χ^2/t		0.804	0.555		0.118	0.645
P		0.424	0.456		0.907	0.521

Table 1 continued

group	n	Body mass	Menstrual type (%)
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		index(kg/m ²)		early menstruation	menstrual delay	Less menstrual flow	More menstrual flow
Chinese medicine group	39	23.90 ± 1.36	13 (33.33)	8 (20.51)	10 (25.64)	8 (20.51)	
regular group	39	23.35 ± 1.24	14 (35.90)	7 (17.95)	10 (25.64)	8 (20.51)	
χ^2/t		1.868	0.104				
<i>P</i>		0.066	0.991				

3. RESULTS

Analysis of Nursing Intervention Effects in Patients with Gynecological Irregular Menstruation

The study aimed to assess the impact of nursing interventions, particularly focusing on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) nursing, on patients with gynecological irregular menstruation. Several key aspects were analyzed to evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions.

Compliance of Nursing

The analysis of nursing compliance in two groups, the TCM group, and the routine nursing group, revealed significant differences. In the TCM group, compliance rates were as follows: 1 point (5.13%), 2 points (7.69%), 3 points (46.15%), 4 points (41.03%), with an overall compliance rate of 87.18%. Conversely, the routine nursing group had lower compliance rates: 1 point (17.95%), 2 points (20.51%), 3 points (17.95%), 4 points (43.59%), with an overall compliance rate of 61.54%. The

compliance ratio in the TCM group was significantly higher ($P < 0.05$), as shown in Table 2 and Figure 1.

Table 2: Comparison of Nursing Compliance in the Two Groups

group	n	1	2	3	4	compliance rate
Chinese medicine group	39	2 (5.13)	3 (7.69)	18 (46.15)	16 (41.03)	34 (87.18)
regular group	39	7 (17.95)	8 (20.51)	7 (17.95)	17 (43.59)	24 (61.54)
χ^2						6.724
P						0.010

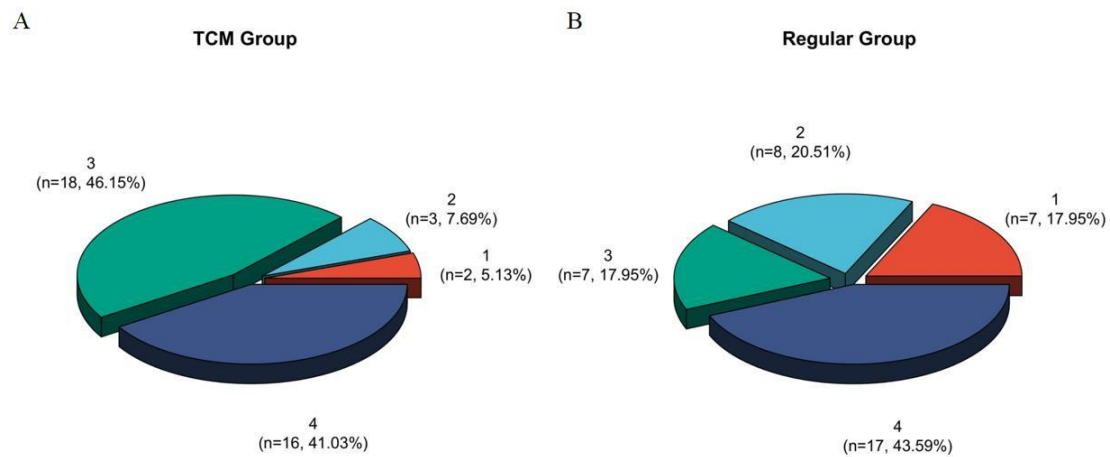


Figure 1 Distribution map of nursing compliance in the two groups

Recovery of Sufferers

In terms of patient recovery, the TCM group showed a higher rate of marked effectiveness (76.92%) compared to the routine group (61.54%). The TCM group also exhibited a lower percentage of patients with an illness state (2.56%) compared to the routine group (20.51%). The recovery rate was significantly higher in the TCM group ($P < 0.05$), as shown in Table 3 and Figure 2.

Table3: Analysis of Sufferers' Recovery Status in the Two Groups

		[n(%)]			
group	n	markedly effective	controllable	onset	recovery rate
Chinese medicine group	39	30 (76.92)	8 (20.51)	1 (2.56)	38 (97.44)
regular group	39	24 (61.54)	7 (17.95)	8 (20.51)	31 (79.49)
χ^2					6.155
<i>P</i>					0.013

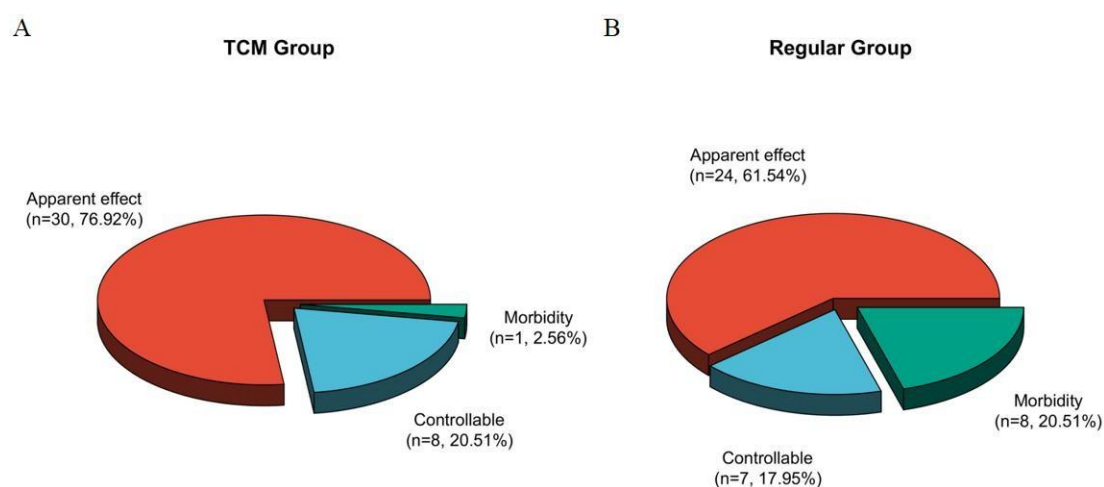


Figure 2 The distribution chart of the recovery status of the 2 groups of sufferers

Psychological Status Improvement

The psychological status of both nursing groups improved significantly after nursing interventions ($P < 0.05$). Additionally, the psychological status indicators in the TCM group were notably lower than those in the routine group after the intervention. Detailed results are presented in Table 4 and Figure 3.

Table4: Analysis of Psychological Status Improvement (Mean \pm Standard Deviation)

group	time	Chinese medicinegroup (n=39)	Regulargroup (n=39)	t	P
HAMD (points)	Before	16.89 ± 2.17	16.90 ± 2.41	0.021	0.984
	Nursing aftercare	7.10 ± 1.30	12.02 ± 2.38	11.343	<0.001
		t = 24.165	t = 8.993		
		P			
HAMA (points)	Before	16.85 ± 2.19	16.46 ± 2.23	0.785	0.435
	Nursing aftercare	7.63 ± 1.24	12.24 ± 1.57	14.393	<0.001
		t = 22.911	t = 9.656		
		P			

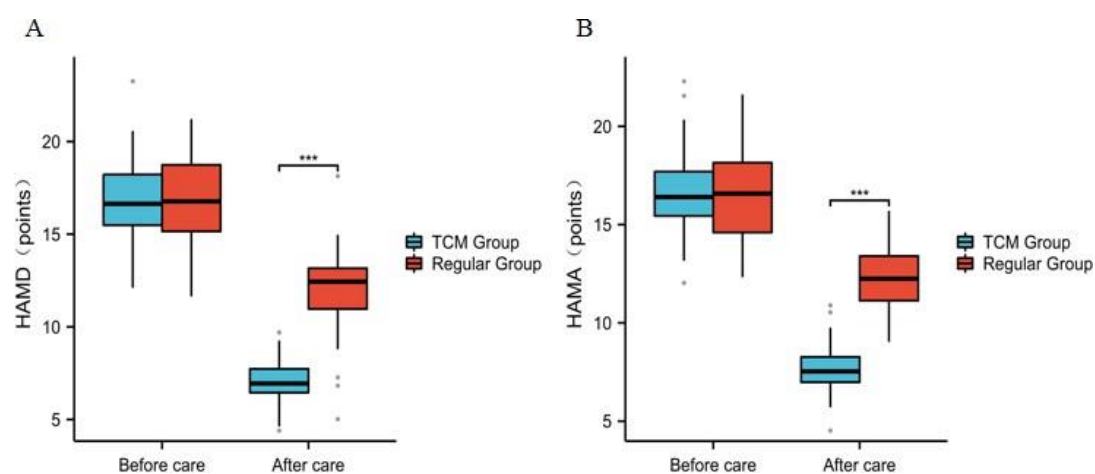


Figure 3 The psychological status distribution map of the two groups of nurses

***indicates that compared to the control one after intervention, $P < 0.001$

Hormone Levels

Analysis of sex hormone levels revealed that both groups experienced significant changes after nursing interventions ($P < 0.05$). Furthermore, the TCM group showed lower levels of E2 and LH and higher levels of FSH compared to the routine group after the intervention. Detailed results can be found in Table 5 and Figure 4.

Table 5: Analysis of Sex Hormone Levels (Mean \pm Standard Deviation)

group	time	Chinese medicine group (n=39)	Regular group (n=39)	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
E2 (IU/L)	Before	11.39 \pm 2.63	11.57 \pm 2.71	0.288	0.775
	Nursing				
	aftercare	7.20 \pm 1.41	10.36 \pm 1.63	9.150	<0.001
		<i>t</i> 8.780	<i>t</i> 2.383		
		<i>P</i> <0.001	<i>P</i> 0.020		
LH (IU/L)	Before	12.30 \pm 2.67	12.56 \pm 2.85	0.420	0.676
	Nursing				
	aftercare	7.34 \pm 1.16	10.74 \pm 2.36	8.078	<0.001
		<i>t</i> 10.642	<i>t</i> 3.069		
		<i>P</i> <0.001	<i>P</i> 0.003		
FSH (pmol/L)	Before	92.90 \pm 4.26	92.28 \pm 2.74	0.767	0.446
	Nursing				
	aftercare	144.68 \pm 10.72	106.71 \pm 2.55	21.516	<0.001
		<i>t</i> 28.024	<i>t</i> 24.079		
		<i>P</i> <0.001	<i>P</i> <0.001		

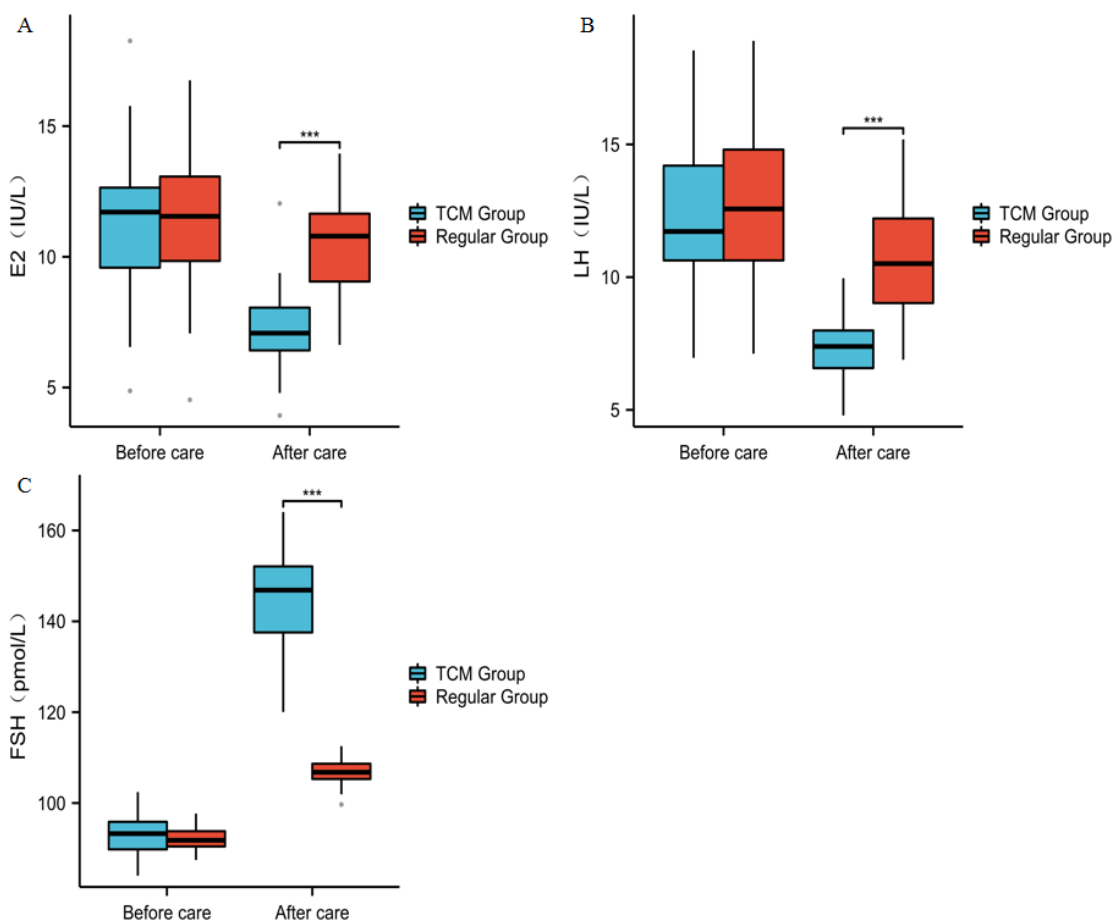


Figure 4 Distribution map of sex hormone levels in the 2 groups of nurses

***indicates that compare to the control one after intervention, $P < 0.001$

Nursing Satisfaction

Nursing satisfaction in the TCM group was notably higher compared to the routine group ($P < 0.05$). In the TCM group, 48.72% of patients were very satisfied, 41.03% were basically satisfied, and only 10.25% were dissatisfied, resulting in an overall satisfaction rate of 89.74%. Conversely, in the routine group, 33.33% were very satisfied, 38.46% were basically satisfied, and 28.21% were dissatisfied, resulting in a satisfaction rate of 71.79%. Detailed results are presented in Table 6 and Figure 5.

Table 6: Analysis of Nursing Satisfaction (n(%))

group	n	Totally satisfied	Generally satisfied	dissatisfied	satisfaction
Chinese medicine group	39	19 (48.72)	16 (41.03)	4 (10.25)	35 (89.74)
regular group	39	13 (33.33)	15 (38.46)	11(28.21)	28 (71.79)
χ^2					4.044
<i>P</i>					0.044

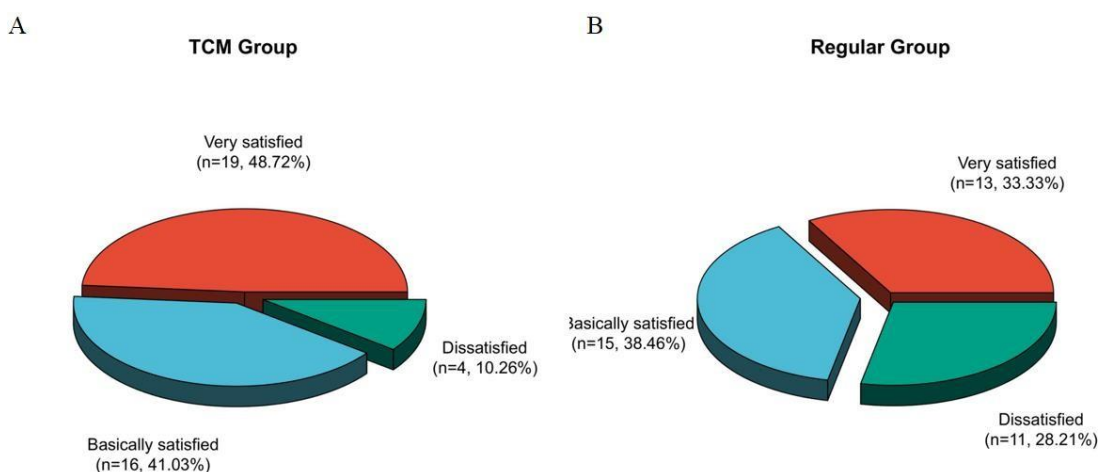


Figure 5 Distribution map of satisfaction with nursing intervention in the two groups

Recurrence Rate

The recurrence rate in the TCM group was significantly lower ($P < 0.05$) than in the routine group. In the TCM group, the recurrence rate was 5.13%, while in the routine group, it was 20.51%. Detailed results can be found in Table 7 and Figure 6.

Table 7: Analysis of Recurrence Rate After Care (n (%))

group	n	relapse	no relapse	Recurrence (%)
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				rate
Chinese medicine group	39	2 (5.13)	37 (94.87)	2 (5.13)
regulargroup	39	8 (20.51)	31 (79.49)	8 (20.51)
χ^2				4.129
P				0.042

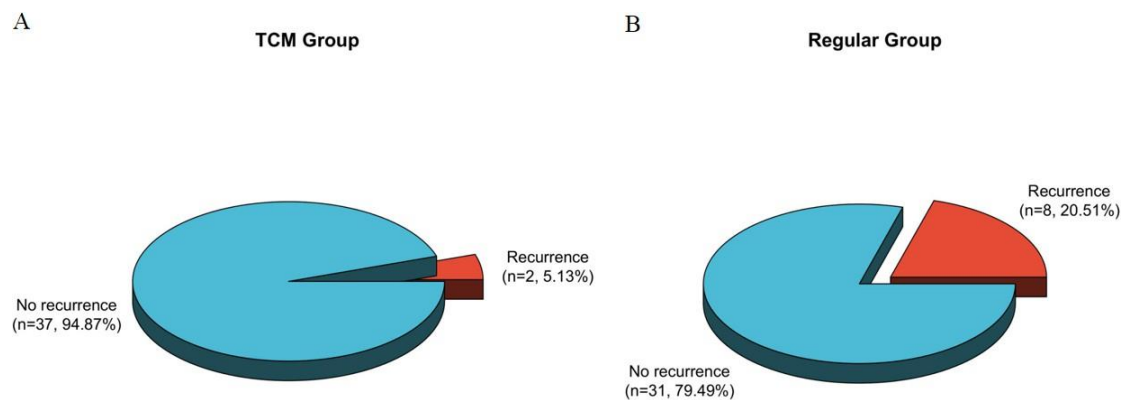


Figure 6 The recurrence rate distribution map after two groups of nursing

The study indicates that nursing interventions, particularly Traditional Chinese Medicine nursing, are effective in improving compliance, patient recovery, psychological status, sex hormone levels, nursing satisfaction, and reducing recurrence rates in patients with gynecological irregular menstruation. These findings highlight the potential benefits of incorporating TCM nursing into gynecological care practices. Further research and implementation of these nursing interventions may contribute to improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.

4. DISCUSSION

Menstruation is a phenomenon of female sexual function maturity, and it is also a manifestation of female fertility. Studies have found (Mitsuhashi et al., 2022; Bofill et al., 2022. Perelló et al., 2021) that the normal progress of the menstrual cycle is the outcome of the mutual coordination and restriction of the sex hormones secreted by the

ovary, the hypothalamus, and pituitary gland in the central nervous system and so on. When the internal environment of the body is disturbed, it may cause the occurrence of menstrual disorders (Czajkowska et al., 2020; Nobles et al., 2022). Irregular, prolonged or profuse abnormal uterine bleeding is one of the pressing gynecological problems for women. As a result, it is critical to identify effective strategies to improve care transitions and outcomes in this population. TCM nursing is an ancient and young subject, which is guided by the theory of TCM, adopting the nursing concept of holistic view and syndrome differentiation and treatment (Epperson et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2021). TCM care is rich in connotation and has unique theories, methods and techniques. At the same time, it is popular and favored by people because of its simplicity, convenience, effectiveness and low cost and other advantages (Wu et al., 2022). In addition, TCM care technology is also an important part of TCM. It is the application of TCM therapy in care work in clinic, which obviously expands the scope of care and effectively plays the characteristics of TCM holistic concept and comprehensive dialectical adjustment treatment (Xie et al., 2022). The outcomes of this research found that the compliance rate of the traditional Chinese medicine care one was 87.18%, which was obviously greater than the conventional nursing one (61.54%) ($P < 0.05$); the recovery rate of the traditional Chinese nursing one was 97.44%, which was obviously greater than the routine nursing one 79.49% ($P < 0.05$). It is believed that TCM care intervention is an effective nursing method to treat menstrual disorders, which could have an important function in improving the patients' compliance rate and recovery rate.

With the improvement of people's living standards, the nursing model has gradually changed from the traditional biomedical model to the biological -psychological-social direction. More and more studies have found that (Aragno et al., 2022; Fukushima et al., 2020; Parker et al., 2022) people's psychological conditions are closely related to their

physical health. The outcomes of this research found that after the intervention, the HAMD point and HAMAScore of the TCM one were obviously less than those of the conventional one ($P < 0.05$). It showing that TCM nursing intervention could significantly improve the psychological status of sufferers. Exploring the reasons, women are more prone to emotional disorders due to various special physiological processes such as menstruation, pregnancy, pregnancy, and childbirth, as well as psychological nature. Previous reports have confirmed (Joyce et al., 2021; El Dahr et al., 2022; Fukushima et al., 2020; Parker et al., 2022) that there is an inseparable relationship between emotional factors and gynecological diseases, and among them, depression, fear, thinking, etc. are more serious. When a patient has menstrual disorders, the sufferer's body is uncomfortable, and it affects the sufferer's mental health, forming a cycle. TCM nursing intervention can improve the psychological status of patients through stable and soothing methods, so that patients can cooperate with treatment with higher compliance.

A complex entity involved many interactions between the central nervous system, hypothalamus, pituitary gland and ovaries, this is what we call the menstrual cycle. Normal menstrual function depended on the secretion of gonadotropin-releasing hormones, which produce sex hormones such as LH and FSH (Jewson et al., 2020; Bji et al., 2022). E2, LH, and FSH are indicators that reflect the body's sex hormones. When ovarian function is abnormal, these sex hormone levels are obviously abnormal (Liet al., 2021). The outcomes of this research found that after the intervention, the E2 and LH levels in the TCM group were significantly less than the routine one, and the FSH level was obviously greater than the routine one ($P < 0.05$). It showing that TCM care intervention can achieve good results in the treatment of menstrual disorders. Analyzing the reasons, traditional Chinese medicine nursing can adapt to individual conditions, local conditions, and time conditions according to the different physiques of patients,

and carry out intervention treatment according to the different physiques of patients, so that the effects can be further improved.

Satisfaction is a favorable method to measure the well-being of patients, and it is also an important part of evaluating care work (Sui 2021). The outcomes of this research found that after the intervention, the care satisfaction of the TCM group was 89.74%, which was obviously greater than the routine one (71.79%) ($P < 0.05$). The recurrence ratio of the traditional Chinese medicine group of nursing was 5.13%, which was obviously lower than the recurrence ratio of 20.51% in the routine group of nursing ($P < 0.05$). It shows that TCM care intervention can effectively improve the satisfaction of sufferers' nursing and decrease the recurrence rate of patients. It may be because traditional Chinese medicine can comprehensively analyze and evaluate patients' diseases according to their different constitutions, and can reduce or avoid the occurrence of adverse events, improve patients' anxiety and depression, improve treatment compliance, thereby improving nursing satisfaction, significantly reducing disease recurrence.

To sum up, TCM nursing intervention for patients with gynecological irregular menstruation can improve treatment compliance, relieve negative emotions, regulate sex hormone levels, and it has the features of high recovery rate and high satisfaction, and it can significantly decrease the recurrence ratio of menstrual disorders, which is worth of promotion and application. Although certain results have been achieved, our research still has certain restrictions. The sample size in this research is relatively small and the research time is short. The effect of TCM care intervention on the future pregnancy and childbirth of patient needs larger sample size and longer research period to further confirm the effectiveness of this method.

CONCLUSION:

The study revealed significant improvements in menstrual regularity and associated symptoms among participants who underwent Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) nursing interventions. Enhanced quality of life and psychological well-being were also notable outcomes. These findings suggest that TCM nursing can be an effective treatment modality for gynecological irregular menstruation. The results emphasize the importance of personalized, holistic care in improving patient outcomes and could significantly impact contemporary healthcare practices. Although the study provides promising insights, further research with larger sample sizes and longer study periods is recommended to validate these findings. Exploration of the long-term effects of TCM nursing interventions on patient health is also suggested.

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