


LETTER TO EDITOR

Traditional Chinese medicine use may reduce medical utility in patients with asthma: correspondence

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We read with great interest the epidemiological study by Liao et al.¹ investigating traditional Chinese medicine use may reduce hospitalization for asthma in a dose-effect manner.

We thank the authors for conducting this subtle study by collecting population-based claims data to provide a novel and potentially practical suggestion. However, we would like to share ideas on this article. The authors addressed measurable confounders by propensity score matching on relevant covariates. However, we are concerned that there are residual confounding factors associated with the medical utility of subsequent asthma attacks. The extent of annual outpatient consultations, medication adherence² and frequency of emergency room visits for asthma at baseline may have constituted a substantial impact on study outcomes.

We suggest including them in the analysis or stating whether there are differences between the case and control groups to make their results more solid. We look forward to their response to clarify these issues in the study.

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