

Appendix 1

Framingham criteria:

Diagnosis of HF requires the simultaneous presence of at least 2 major criteria or 1 major criterion in conjunction with 2 minor criteria.

Major criteria: Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea; Neck vein distention; Rales; Radiographic cardiomegaly (increasing heart size on chest radiography); Acute pulmonary edema; S3 gallop; Increased central venous pressure (>16 cm H₂O at right atrium); Hepatojugular reflux; Weight loss >4.5 kg in 5 days in response to treatment.

Minor criteria: Bilateral ankle edema; Nocturnal cough; Dyspnea on ordinary exertion; Hepatomegaly; Pleural effusion; Decrease in vital capacity by one third from maximum recorded; Tachycardia (heart rate >120 beats/min).

Minor criteria are acceptable only if they cannot be attributed to another medical condition (such as pulmonary hypertension, chronic lung disease, cirrhosis, ascites, or the nephrotic syndrome).

Appendix 2

Search strategy:

EMBASE:

#1. exp Herbal Medicine/

#2. exp Medicinal Plant/

#3. exp Traditional Medicine/

#4. exp Chinese Medicine/

#5. herb\$.tw.

#6. (plant or plants).tw.

#7. phytomedicine.tw.

#8. botanical.tw.

#9. weed\$.tw.

#10. algae.tw.

#11. (fungi or fungus).tw.

#12. ((traditional or chinese or herbal) adj medicine).tw.

#13. ((oriental or chinese) adj tradition\$).tw.

#14. or/1-13

#15. exp Heart Failure/

#16. ((cardi* or heart* or myocard*) adj2 (failure* or incompet* or insufficien*)).tw.

#17. Ventricular Dysfunction, Left/

#18. ventricular dysfunction.tw.

#19. or/15-18

#20. 'randomized controlled trial'/exp OR 'controlled clinical trial'/exp OR
randomized:ti,ab OR placebo:ti,ab OR 'drug therapy':lnk OR
randomly:ti,ab OR trial:ti,ab OR groups:ti,ab

#21. and/14, 19, 20

CENTRAL:

#1. MeSH descriptor Medicine, Herbal explode all trees in MeSH products

#2. MeSH descriptor Plants, Medicinal explode all trees in MeSH products

#3. MeSH descriptor Medicine, Traditional explode all trees in MeSH
products

#4. MeSH descriptor Drugs, Chinese Herbal explode all trees in MeSH
products

#5. herb* in All Fields in all products

#6. plant or plants in All Fields in all products

#7. phytomedicine in All Fields in all products

#8. botanical in All Fields in all products

#9. weed* in All Fields in all products

#10. algae in All Fields in all products

#11. fungi or fungus in All Fields in all products

#12. (traditional or chinese or herbal) next medicine in All Fields in all
products

- #13. (oriental or chinese) next tradition* in All Fields in all products
- #14. (#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13)
- #15. MeSH descriptor Heart Failure explode all trees
- #16. ((cardi* or heart* or myocard*) near/2 (failure* or incompet* or insufficien* or shock or arrest*))
- #17. MeSH descriptor Ventricular Dysfunction, Left, this term only
- #18. (ventricular dysfunction)
- #19. (#15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18)
- #20. (#14 and #19)