

**11. Gastrointestinal, Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Diseases****Reference**

Itoh T, Yamakawa J, Mai M, et al. The effect of the herbal medicine dai-kenchu-to on post-operative ileus. *The Journal of International Medical Research* 2002; 30: 428-32. CENTRAL ID: CN-00410068, Pubmed ID: 12235926

**1. Objectives**

To evaluate the efficacy of daikenchuto (大建中湯) for the treatment of postoperative ileus and the improvement of postoperative conditions.

**2. Design**

Randomized controlled trial (RCT).

**3. Setting**

One hospital (Cancer Research Institute of Kanazawa University), Japan.

**4. Participants**

Out of 154 abdominal surgery patients, 24 developed postoperative ileus were enrolled.

**5. Intervention**

Arm 1: treatment with daikenchuto (大建中湯) 15.0 g in 13 patients.

Arm 2: treatment with placebo (the same quantity and frequency of doses as arm 1) in 11 patients.

The study drugs were administered orally for 14 days.

**6. Main outcome measures**

Frequency of surgery for ileus and recurrence of ileus.

**7. Main results**

Surgery for postoperative ileus could be avoided significantly more frequently in the daikenchuto arm than in the placebo arm. In addition, daikenchuto tended to decrease, though not significantly, the recurrence rate of ileus.

**8. Conclusions**

Daikenchuto is a cost-effective and noninvasive therapeutic agent for postoperative ileus after abdominal surgery and has no adverse effects.

**9. From Kampo medicine perspective**

None.

**10. Safety assessment in the article**

Not mentioned.

**11. Abstractor's comments**

This RCT examined the efficacy of daikenchuto for postoperative ileus. This seems to be clinically relevant after abdominal surgery since the treatment for postoperative ileus is not established. Although mentioned in the conclusion, the safety and cost effectiveness of daikenchuto treatment were not described in the main text. It might have been better to mention those outcomes, and examine the dependence of these differences on subjects' underlying diseases or surgical procedures.

**12. Abstractor and date**

Arai M, 20 February 2007, 30 October 2007, 1 June 2010.