

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

Nishida T. Effect of rikkunshito on gastrointestinal function in patients after gastrectomy\*. *Progress in Medicine* 2006; 26: 3224-5 (in Japanese). [MOL](#), [MOL-Lib](#)

**1. Objectives**

To determine the efficacy of TSUMURA Rikkunshito Extract (六君子湯) Granules for stimulating gastrointestinal emptying in patients after pylorus-preserving gastrectomy (PPG).

**2. Design**

Randomized cross-over controlled trial (RCT-cross over).

**3. Setting**

Not indicated (the author belongs to a university hospital).

**4. Participants**

Eleven patients after PPG.

**5. Intervention**

Arm 1: no treatment for 4 weeks followed by treatment with TSUMURA Rikkunshito (六君子湯) Extract Granules (2.5 g t.i.d.) for 4 weeks, n=5.

Arm 2: treatment with TSUMURA Rikkunshito (六君子湯) Extract Granules (2.5 g t.i.d.) for 4 weeks followed by no treatment for 4 weeks, n=6.

**6. Main outcome measures**

Gastrointestinal Quality of Life Index (GIQLI) and rate of gastric retention as shown by gastric emptying scintigraphy.

**7. Main results**

Although no significant difference was observed in GIQLI, 8 patients preferred to continue the rikkunshito treatment.

Scintigraphy showed reduced rate of gastric retention of solids (but not of liquids) in patients treated with TSUMURA Rikkunshito Extract Granules.

**8. Conclusions**

TSUMURA Rikkunshito Extract Granules delays gastric emptying of solids in patients after PPG.

**9. From Kampo medicine perspective**

None.

**10. Safety assessment in the article**

None.

**11. Abstractor's comments**

This trial is of high clinical interest, since it made objective evaluations based on gastric-emptying scintigraphy of solids and liquids separately. However, some questions about the design (including the randomization step) remain. So-called "between-group comparisons" will be desirable in the future.

**12. Abstractor and date**

Kogure T, 26 January 2009, 8 August 2009.