Stage 1

Hypothesis: Disease pattern based (disease-a group of syndromes) method in trial design of Chinese herbal medicine can improve responses.

RA Patients Enters 9 Clinics-Screening

Assessment

To explore what groups of symptoms based on Chinese medicine theory is correlated with better efficacy (ACR20).

RA Patients Enters 10 Clinics-Screening

Randomization (1:1)

Inclusion criteria: stage 1 inclusion criteria + the group of symptoms selected in stage 1 trial

Stage 2

Treatment group

1. TWP
2. YSJB
3. MTX placebo
4. SSZ placebo

Control group

1. MTX
2. SSZ
3. TWP placebo
4. YSJB placebo

Double blind

The 2nd, 4th, 8th, 16th, 20th, 24th weeks after intervention

Assessment

Data collection

24 weeks

Accept or reject hypothesis

Accept or reject hypothesis