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<http://iim.cmb.ac.lk/wp-content/uploa /2012/03/SLJIM-Vol1No2-December-2011.p f>

**Abstract:**

The patent herbal compound rug, Yi Shen Juan Bi (YJB), has been found to be effective for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), and our previous study revealed that it has potent anti-rheumatic effect. We have conducted further investigation into the anti-arthritic activity of YJB using macrophage and synovial cell in an *ex-vivo* serum pharmacology assay. For that purpose, we used mouse serum containing YJB and analyzed the macrophage-derived cytokine tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) and interleukin-1 (IL-1) using ELISA kit, nitric oxide (NO) by Griess reaction and the proliferation of rat synovial cell stimulated by TNF- $\alpha$  by MTT reaction assay *in vitro*. In addition, we analyzed the cytotoxicity concentration of YJB by MTT reaction assay. This study confirmed the anti-rheumatic effect of YJB correlated with a significant decrease of TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1 and NO production by macrophage and also with significant decrease in the proliferation of synovial cell *in vitro*. A subsequent cytotoxicity assay also revealed no significant difference in cell viability. Our results suggest that YJB is a potential anti-rheumatic agent targeting the inflammatory and immunomodulatory response of macrophage and synovial cell.