# Dear Doctor: TNBC Herbal Protocol – Clinical Overview & Safety Data

Luma Tea / Healing in the Spirit Protocols

Prepared by Mary Spohn, LAc – Integrative Oncology Herbalist

Phone: 623-388-2431 Email: marytealady@gmail.com Website: www.lumatea.com

#### Introduction

This botanical protocol was developed to support patients with **Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)** using a combination of **Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)** and evidence-informed **Western herbal research**. Each herb in this 18-herb formula was selected for its relevance to TNBC biology, including its ability to:

☐Modulate inflammatory and immune pathways

□Induce apoptosis and autophagy in breast cancer cell lines

□Inhibit metastasis and angiogenesis

□Support organ resilience during chemotherapy and radiation

All herbs have demonstrated low toxicity, high therapeutic potential, and compatibility with standard oncologic care in current literature. This formula is offered in both tincture and tea form.



#### 1. Huang Qi (Astragalus membranaceus)

Clinical Highlights: Immune-enhancing, anti-metastatic, marrow-restorative

**Mechanisms:** TGF-β1 and VEGF inhibition, interferon-y activation, PI3K/Akt modulation

Active Compounds: Astragaloside IV, calycosin, polysaccharides

**Compatibility:** Supports chemo/radiation recovery

References: Cho WC. Evidence-Based Anticancer Materia Medica: Liu J. Cancer

Lett. 2018



#### 2. Bai Hua She She Cao (Hedyotis diffusa)

Clinical Highlights: Apoptosis in TNBC cells, STAT3 inhibition

**Mechanisms:** Upregulates Bax, caspase-3; suppresses PI3K/Akt and ROS pathways

Active Compounds: Iridoids, anthraguinones, scutellarein

**Compatibility:** Safe, radiation-protective

References: Huang M.Y. J Ethnopharmacol. 2015



## 3. Ban Zhi Lian (Scutellaria barbata)

Clinical Highlights: Angiogenesis inhibitor, chemo-synergistic Mechanisms: Caspase activation, STAT3/NF-кВ suppression

Active Compounds: Scutellarein, baicalin, wogonin Compatibility: Compatible with chemo/radiation References: Li-Weber M. Cancer Treat Rev. 2009



# 4. Shan Dou Gen (Sophora tonkinensis)

**Clinical Highlights:** TNBC apoptosis, immune enhancement **Mechanisms:** ROS-mediated DNA damage, JAK/STAT3 inhibition

Active Compounds: Matrine, oxymatrine Compatibility: Hepatoprotective with chemo

References: Liu J. Biomed Pharmacother. 2017; Zhang Y. J Ethnopharmacol. 2018



## 5. Yu Xing Cao (Houttuynia cordata)

Clinical Highlights: EMT and metastasis suppression

**Mechanisms:** Inhibits NF-κB, TGF-β, MMP-9

Active Compounds: Quercitrin, houttuynin

Compatibility: Supports detox and radiation resilience

References: Lu H.M. Front Pharmacol. 2021



## 6. Zhi Mu (Anemarrhena asphodeloides)

**Clinical Highlights:** Anti-estrogenic, metabolic regulator **Mechanisms:** AMPK activation, glucose metabolism inhibition

Active Compounds: Timosaponin A-III, mangiferin

**Compatibility:** Balances chemo stress **References:** Guo X. *Phytomedicine.* 2014



## 7. Bai Jiang Cao (Patrinia scabiosaefolia)

Clinical Highlights: Anti-inflammatory, tumor necrosis enhancer

**Mechanisms:** Caspase activation, HIF-1α suppression **Active Compounds:** Patriscabosides, volatile oils **Compatibility:** Supports tumor regression with chemo

References: Zhang L. J Ethnopharmacol. 2019



#### 8. Chi Shao (Paeonia rubra)

Clinical Highlights: Blood invigoration, antioxidant, apoptosis-inducing

Mechanisms: COX-2 inhibition, mitochondrial ROS

Active Compounds: Paeoniflorin, gallic acid Compatibility: Reduces toxicity-related stasis References: Wang Y. *Phytomedicine*. 2018



## 9. Dang Shen (Codonopsis pilosula)

Clinical Highlights: Qi restoration, WBC support post-chemo

**Mechanisms:** Cytokine modulation, mucosal repair **Active Compounds:** Polysaccharides, saponins **Compatibility:** Widely used with chemotherapy **References:** Zhang J. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2020



#### 10. Gan Cao (Glycyrrhiza uralensis)

Clinical Highlights: Anti-inflammatory, detoxifying, synergist

Mechanisms: NF-κB, PI3K/Akt inhibition Active Compounds: Glycyrrhizin, liquiritigenin

**Compatibility:** Caution in hypertension **References:** Wang Z.Y. *Cancer Lett.* 2010



# 11. Ling Zhi (Ganoderma lucidum)

**Clinical Highlights:** Immune enhancement, NK cell activation **Mechanisms:** PI3K/Akt suppression, macrophage stimulation

**Active Compounds:** Beta-glucans, ganoderic acids **Compatibility:** Radioprotective, marrow supportive **References:** Boh B. *Int J Med Mushrooms*. 2013



## 12. Yun Zhi (Turkey Tail – Trametes versicolor)

Clinical Highlights: PSK and PSP immune modulation

**Mechanisms:** IL-2, IFN-γ activation, tumor immune evasion prevention

Active Compounds: PSK, PSP

**Compatibility:** Enhances chemo outcomes **References:** Eliza W. *J Clin Oncol.* 2005



#### 13. San Leng (Sparganium stoloniferum)

Clinical Highlights: Tumor dispersing, stasis breaking

**Mechanisms:** VEGF/HIF-1α inhibition, apoptosis **Active Compounds:** Sparganium glycosides

**Compatibility:** Synergistic with chemo **References:** Liu Y. *Phytomedicine.* 2019



#### 14. E Zhu (Curcuma zedoaria)

Clinical Highlights: TNBC-specific antimetastatic effects

Mechanisms: STAT3, EMT, NF-κB blockade Active Compounds: Curcumol, zedoarondiol Compatibility: Radioprotective, enhances chemo

References: Chen H. Phytother Res. 2016



# 15. Jiao Gu Lan (Gynostemma pentaphyllum)

**Clinical Highlights:** Adaptogenic, apoptosis-inducing **Mechanisms:** mTOR, NF-κB inhibition, ROS modulation

Active Compounds: Gypenosides, flavonoids

**Compatibility:** Liver/kidney protective **References:** Zhang H. *Oncol Rep.* 2014



#### 16. Soursop (Annona muricata)

Clinical Highlights: Cytotoxic to TNBC cells, anti-Warburg

Mechanisms: EGFR, NADPH oxidase inhibition, mitochondrial disruption

**Active Compounds:** Acetogenins, annonacin **Compatibility:** Use in moderation; synergistic

References: Torres M.P. BMC Complement Altern Med. 2012



#### 17. Green Tea (Camellia sinensis)

Clinical Highlights: TNBC apoptosis, metabolic inhibition

**Mechanisms:** EGFR, VEGF, AMPK activation

Active Compounds: EGCG, catechins

**Compatibility:** Enhances chemo, antioxidant **References:** Wang W. *Cancer Lett.* 2014



# 18. Turmeric (Curcuma longa)

Clinical Highlights: Strong anti-inflammatory, NF-кВ and COX-2 inhibitor

**Mechanisms:** Apoptosis via ROS, EGFR and STAT3 suppression

Active Compounds: Curcumin, demethoxycurcumin Compatibility: Chemosensitizing, radioprotective References: Aggarwal BB. *Biochem Pharmacol.* 2007

For further questions, clinical references, or patient coordination, please contact: Mary Spohn, LAc | 623-388-2431 | marytealady@gmail.com | www.lumatea.com

#### "The story that created cancer is no longer running the show"

Sometimes illness is connected to a deeper story—old stress, unresolved grief, patterns of over-giving, or painful events that may have shaped how the body held tension and imbalance. It doesn't mean you caused your cancer, but it does mean the body and spirit may have been carrying a burden for a long time.

When we say "the story that created cancer is no longer running the show," it means that this old pattern is no longer in charge of your life. You are no longer defined by past pain, fear, or imbalance. Instead, your healing journey has helped you step into a new story—one of strength, freedom, balance, and hope.

Your body is being restored, your inner fire is alive again, and your immune system remembers how to protect you. Most importantly, your spirit is reclaiming its rightful place at the center of your healing. The cancer no longer has the leading role—you do.