Reviewer's report

Title: To compare the effect of two Zhizhu pills in the treatment of functional dyspepsia of spleen-deficiency and qi-stagnation syndrome using a randomized, double-blinded multicenter and group sequential study design

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Reviewer: Muhammad Nabeel Ghayur

Reviewer's report:

Wu et al have presented some very good data in terms of looking for a potential therapy by use of traditional Chinese therapy and presenting it after assessing the results obtained in a double blinded randomized controlled trial.

The paper deserves publication in the journal, but would be good to add the following suggestions in the paper:

Minor revisions

1. It would be good to show if the plants (used as therapy for functional dyspepsia) have been used traditionally in Chinese medicine for gastrointestinal disorders. Please provide relevant references.

2. How and from where the test plant drug was obtained? Was it formulated/prepared by the authors or purchased from some manufacturers? Also state the method of its preparation and formulation if it was prepared by the authors themselves. In this case also provide how and by whom the plant material was identified and the relevant herbarium registration material.

3. It will be good to expand (in the discussion part) more on the pharmacological reasoning/mechanism of action behind the chemicals possibly responsible for the beneficial effect in dyspepsia.

4. Please expand more on the TCM equivalent term for f.dyspepsia, especially where the authors refer to 'spleen-deficiency' and 'qi-stagnation syndrome'. It will help the readers to get a grip of what the authors are referring to here.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests