Reviewer's report

**Title:** The effects of psychological interventions on depression and anxiety among Chinese adults with cancer: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled studies

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 24 September 2014

**Reviewer:** Ayako Matsuda

**Reviewer's report:**

This is an interesting manuscript. Herewith I am giving my comments. Hope these comments will be helpful for you.

**Major Essential Revisions**

1. **Methods:**
   - Information about timing of assessment is important.
   - When were depression and anxiety assessed (EXAMPLE: 6 months post-intervention)?

2. **Statistical analysis:**
   2.1. In this meta-analysis, there were many kinds of questionnaires. How are these questionnaires related?
   - For example, does Depression of HAMD correspond to Depression of SDS?
   - Are there references about that?
   - You described that depression and anxiety were assessed using different questionnaires.
   - As sensitivity analysis, you should use data that were assessed by same questionnaires and conduct a meta-analysis.

   2.2. You described that data in univariate and multi meta-regression analysis were not shown. However, I recommend that you should add Table (or Figure in meta-regression analysis) about the data as Appendix because no moderating effects were found.

   2.3. In Table3, there were the following descriptions, “P of comparison between these subgroup”.
   - Where was the information about this statistical analysis?
   - What kind of the statistical analysis did you conduct to compare between these subgroup?

3. **Characteristics of included studies:**
   - It is important information that the psychological interventions were carried out for
the patients receiving treatments for cancer or not. You should add the information about treatments (EXAMPLE: surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy) and setting (EXAMPLE: Palliative-care settings, Non-palliative-care settings) in Table 1.

In addition, I recommend that you add Table about findings from the included studies (EXAMPLE: mean, standard deviation) next to Table 1 or as Appendix.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. All Figures:
There were no titles and figure legends in the all figures.
If abbreviations were used, the meaning of them should be explained (EXAMPLE: RCTs = randomized controlled trials).

2. Figure 3, Figure 4:
Do you have a meaning in order of the articles?
You should make the old order of the articles.
I recommend that you conduct a cumulative meta-analysis too.

You should add the following sentence in the figures, “Favors experimental group” and “Favors control group”.

You should express difference in size of subjects by square size in Forest Plot.

3. Table1, Table2:
Do you have a meaning in order of the articles?
You should make the old order of the articles and add each number of references after names of the authors in Table1 and Table2 (EXAMPLE: Zhu et al 2013 [65]).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

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