Author’s response to reviews

Title: Study on the Evaluation of the Clinical Effects of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Heart Failure by Complex Intervention: Protocol of SECETCM-HF

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Thanks for the reviewer’s comments. In the revised manuscript, we supplemented the points which missing in the former version. Here’s the point-by-point response to the concerns.

1. We made the injection regimens clear, which should be “Based on the regular medication, the medicines like polarized solution (500ml, Qd), which are considered as neutral treatment and the same fluid volume to Group B, can be used intravenously during the hospitalization period.”

2. We added “which are visually identical to Group B” between “After discharging” and “two kinds of placebo drugs” in the same graph, in order to describe the configuration of the placebo.

3. In the “Method of randomization” part, we elaborated the security of blinding as “The trial center gives the unique enrollment number of each participant, then records and preserves the information after randomization.”

4. We agreed Dr. Cleland’s comments on “The study is too small to be definitive and the authors should be cautious about any sweeping conclusions from its results.” SECETCM-HF is focusing on the special clinical effect trends of TCM in heart failure patients. There’s no definitive conclusion in the protocol now, and we are cautious about it in the future study.
5. In the flow diagram, we clarified the usage of the placebo drugs as well.