Reviewer's report

Title: Randomized trials in China: How many are randomized?

Version: 1 Date: 17 October 2008

Reviewer: Richard Nahin

Reviewer's report:

The authors have addressed an interesting and potentially critical question concerning whether RCT's published in China meet acceptable standards for allocating participants to treatment groups. Their approach to this review is consistent with that of the Cochrane Collaboration. This reviewer has only minor comments as noted below.

Minor Essential Revisions.

The data presented are very interesting, but without comparison to RCT's from other countries it is impossible to put these data in context. While the fact that the most RCT's in China lack an adequate description of randomization is of concern, is it really that different from what would seen in RCT's in general? There must be some literature on the quality of published RCT's to which the authors can compare their data.

The authors should provide some rationale as to which diseases they included on their list of 20 common diseases.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.