Author's response to reviews

Title: Quality Assessment of Reporting of Randomization, Allocation Concealment, and Blinding in Traditional Chinese Medicine RCTs: A Review of 3159 RCTs identified from 260 Systematic Reviews

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Reviewer's report

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Version: 2 Date: 25 February 2011

Reviewer: Ian Needleman

Reviewer's report:

This is much improved and thanks to the authors for their hard work.

Minor essential revision:

1. Please check through to ensure that the distinction is made between the quality of trials and what you are actually measuring which is the reported quality of trials. For instance, the first sentence of the conclusion in the abstract reads ‘the quality of current TCM RCS...’ I suggest ‘The quality of current TCM RCTs as judged by their publications...’

Response: We have checked through the entire article and revised the first sentence of the conclusion in the abstract according to the reviewer’s suggestion.

2. The last clause of the abstract conclusions should be omitted i.e.....so as to improve the image of TCM clinical research and ensure reliable results are published’. Image is not a high priority reason for improvement.

Response: We have revised the last clause of the abstract conclusions.

3. Methods: Quality assessment. Please add something along the lines of ‘Assessment was based on trial publication only. We did not contact trial authors for clarification’.

Response: We have added something along the lines of ‘Assessment was based on trial publication only. We did not contact trial authors for clarification’.

4. Results: heading ‘Assessment of randomization methods....’ Please add ‘Assessment of reported randomization methods...’

Response: We have added ‘Assessment of reported randomization methods...’

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

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

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests