Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of the traditional Chinese medicine Yi Shen Jian Gu granules on aromatase inhibitor-associated musculoskeletal symptoms: a study protocol for a multicenter, randomized, controlled clinical trial

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Title: Effects of the traditional Chinese medicine Yi Shen Jian Gu granules on aromatase inhibitor-associated musculoskeletal symptoms: a study protocol for a multicenter, randomized, controlled clinical trial

Revising comments:
1. Background, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence: it would be useful to provide a reference.
   The reference has been revised in the revised manuscript.
2. Background, 3rd paragraph, sentence beginning "Through prescription...": instead of stating "we noted," recommend changing to something like "we hypothesize" or "suspect" or something similar.
   We would like to express that we have observed the effectiveness of Yi Shen Jian Gu on AIMSS in clinical practice, but useful empirical observation is insufficient. Then we will conduct a well-designed clinical trial to prove the observation.
3. Study design section: clarify why patients must be taking a calcium agent.
   Bone loss is identified as one of the main adverse events of AIs, which leads to a high risk of osteoporosis (bone fractures). Considering this circumstance, the majority of postmenopausal women who are taking AI supply calcium and vitamin D as directed by the doctors or by themselves. Several studies reported that vitamin D supplement might have a positive effect in relieving AIMSS. In order to maintain the homogeneity between patients who supplied calcium agent and vitamin D or not, all eligible participants will be prescribed calcium agent and vitamin D.
4. Interventions section: 1st paragraph can probably be removed, or integrated into earlier sections.
   The AI and calcium carbonate / vitamin D prescriptions are eligibility criterion but not part of the intervention.
   Interventions section has been revised in the revised manuscript.
5. Randomization section: first sentence uses past tense verb, 2nd sentence uses future tense. This is a bit confusing.
   The procedure described in the first sentence has been completed, so we used past tense. The following steps are being conducted, so we used future tense.
6. Primary Outcome Measures section: It is atypical to have multiple primary outcomes, and later in the manuscript the BPI-SF if noted as the primary outcome, rather than all of those listed in the primary outcome measures section. The treatment of all of these as primary outcomes, if that's really the case, could be clarified.
   Primary outcome measure section has been revised in the revised manuscript.
7. Safety assessments section: clarify what will be done with all of the screening measures, since only use of serum samples is described.
   Safety assessments section has been revised in the revised manuscript.
8. Statistical analysis section: recommend changing "primary outcome measure" to "primary analysis." Similar with "secondary outcome measure."
   Statistical analysis section has been revised in the revised manuscript.
9. Discussion section: most of 1st paragraph would probably be better placed later, in the paragraph that has other information on measurement of AIMSS.
   The order of the paragraph has been adjusted in the revised manuscript.
10. Discussion section: last sentence can be removed. Right now it stands alone as its own
paragraph. Also, the study may or may not provide "supportive data," depending on whether the hypothesis is confirmed.

Last sentence in the discussion section has been revised in the revised manuscript.