Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 15 April 2014

Reviewer: Kelli Allen

Reviewer’s report:

This is a well written manuscript that nicely sets up the research question and describes the protocol in sufficient detail in most places. I have only the following recommendations for minor essential revisions:

1. Background, 3rd paragraph, 2nd sentence: it would be useful to provide a reference.
2. Background, 3rd paragraph, sentence beginning “Through presecription...”: instead of stating "we noted," recommend changing to something like "we hypothesize" or "suspet" or something similar.
3. Study design section: clarify why patients must be taking a calcium agent.
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.
5. Randomization section: first sentence uses past tense verb, 2nd sentence uses fugure tense. This is a bit confusing.
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.
7. Safety assessments section: clarify what will be done with all of the screening measures, since only use of serum samples is described.
8. Statistical analysis section: recommend changing "primary outcome measure" to "primary analysis." Similar with "seconary outcome measure."
9. Discussion section: most of 1st paragraph would probably be better placed later, in the paragraph that has other information on measurement of AIMSS.
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.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
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.