Reviewer’s report

Title: Frequency and Co-prescription Pattern of Chinese Herbal Products for Hypertension in Taiwan: a cohort study

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Reviewer: Shinn-Jang Hwang

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Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Details of the study methodology need to be described. Patients with diagnosis of hypertension (ICD-9-CM code: 401-405) was obtained from western medicine ambulatory visits or from TCM visits need to be clarified. Patients visit western medicine usually have more than one diagnosis. Authors should focus on the TCM visits only.

2. The million cohort of Taiwanese National Health Insurance Research Database can represent one year disease prevalence. This study period include 2003 to 2009, only small amount of subjects change in this million cohort and can not represent yearly disease prevalence.

3. Why 123,240 subjects with hypertension had used TCM at least once during 2003 to 2009 but only 81582 outpatients visits with hypertension related were prescribed Chinese herbal products? Author should clarify this issue.

Minor Revision:
1. Author should mention on average how many Chinese herbal products were prescribed during one hypertension related TCM outpatients visits. According to previous publications, usually 3-5 Chinese herbal products either formula or single herb will be prescribed by TCM physicians. It is interested to know the common regimen with co-prescription of 3 Chinese herbal formula or single herb.

2. Authors mentioned support factor in association rule mining, How about confidence factor?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no competing interests