Reviewer’s report

Title: Potential effectiveness of Chinese herbal medicine Yu ping feng san for adult allergic rhinitis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Version: 0 Date: 25 Aug 2017

Reviewer: HEATHER ZWICKEY

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, this is an excellent study. While there are limitations, the authors do a great job of stating them. The study was performed using high quality methodology. The comments are minor, and are mostly related to the writing. I tired of fixing grammar and English, so I just provided a few examples.

1. There are a few places where language needs to be corrected. There are several awkward sentences.

2. Look at the verb tense throughout. It switches between present and past tense, sometimes correctly and sometimes incorrectly.

3. On line 7 on page 11, you have an extra "did."

4. On page 11, line 24, you've used the wrong "there." It should be "their."

5. An example of a sentence that is grammatically incorrect is page 12 line 18. "In addition, one study reported data on IL-4, it was found that YPFS achieved better effect than intranasal glucocorticoids." There are several ways to write this sentence correctly. You could say, "In addition, one study reported data on IL-4. This study found that YPFS achieved better effect than intranasal glucocorticoids." Or you could say "In addition, one study found that YPFS achieved better effect than intranasal glucocorticoids for IL-4." Or you could say, "In addition, one study reported data on IL-4; it was found that YPFS achieved better effect than intranasal glucocorticoids."

6. The punctuation on pages 18-19 needs to be addressed.

The data is strong. It's a concern that many of the references cannot be verified, however, that's a result of the international nature of the manuscript.

The figures look good.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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