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: 09 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Linda Zhong

Reviewer's report:

This study is a systematic review and meta-analysis of a Chinese herbal formula YPFS in the treatment of allergic rhinitis. This paper has some limitations. The first is that the literature review is not sufficient. The search strategy did not include any thesis or conference abstract, the literature review should be updated within 6 months of the study submission not July 2015. Thus the included studies only 17 RCTs, which are not representative. The second is that the dosages of granules or pills of YPFS are not clearly presented and also their quality control methodology is not supplied. The third is that primary outcome which the study set was Total Nasal Symptom Scores but the results showed that only one among the 17 studies using individual nasal symptom scores as primary outcome so the conclusion of this study was not credible. The fourth is that the pharmacotherapy mentioned in this study was various and no dosage provided.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
I am able to assess the statistics

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