Author’s response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of Chinese herbal medicine Zengru Gao to promote breastfeeding: a multicenter randomized controlled trial

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Dear Anne Menard,

We very much appreciate the careful reading of our manuscript and your five suggestions. We have revised the manuscript accordingly in the final version. Data availability statement was added. Thanks again.

Sincerely yours,
1. We have noted that in the Discussion section you have stated that "For instance, more mothers in the control group received peanuts after enrollment. Boiled peanuts was used frequently and probably had no effect on milk production." Did mothers in both groups receive peanuts? Please clarify why peanuts were not given to all patients.

Reply: Sorry for the confusion. Peanut isn’t the intervention in this trial. Actually, peanuts have been used by the Chinese in dietary remedies for increasing breast milk production in new mothers. In this trial, mothers were asked to record their diet to reduce the influence of peanut intake on milk production. In final version, this sentence has been removed to avoid confusion.

2. You have stated that there was a "blind observer" included in this study, please can you clarify what role this blind observer had, e.g. a doctor/nurse at the hospital.

Not a doctor/nurse at the hospital, only the investigator is blind to the allocation.

3. Please include a reference ID for the Zengru Gao and please clarify that is was purchased from "Zhangzhou Pien Tze Huang Pharmaceutical co., Ltd", as the current statement is not clear.


Zengru Gao used in this study were manufactured by Zhangzhou Pien Tze Huang Pharmaceutical co., Ltd., Fujian, China.

4. Please amend your Availability of data and materials statement, as the raw data does not appear to be included on the trial registration website. We strongly encourage all authors to share their raw data, either by providing it in a supplementary file or depositing it in a public repository and providing the details on how to access it in this section. If you do not wish to share your data, please clearly state this in this section along with a justification. Data
availability statements can take one of the following forms (or a combination of more than one if required for multiple datasets):

Reply: Availability of data and materials statement was added.

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in the manuscript. The datasets used and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author (aipinglu@hkbu.edu.hk) upon reasonable request.

5. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colours. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Reply: As per your request, I finally uploaded the clean, final version.

Reviewer reports:

David M. Haas (Reviewer 3): The authors have done a very nice job responding to reviewer critiques. Nice trial and appropriate manuscript.

Reply: Your encouraging comment is greatly appreciated.