Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of Depression with Chai Hu Shu Gan San: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of 42 Randomized Controlled Trials

Version: 1 Date: 23 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Joshua Rosenblat

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have significantly revised their manuscript and the quality has greatly improved. My only remaining suggestion is to strongly consider presenting an overall pooled antidepressant effect size for all studies with an active comparator. The strength of a meta-analysis is the ability to pool together study results, however, with so many subgroups, as in this study, there is minimal pooling of effect sizes. Instead, it is more like a qualitative review where the individual study results are reported with no effort to quantitatively pool together the results. I appreciate why subgrouping is important but still recommend the pooling of all studies together to get an overall effect size, even if there is heterogeneity between study protocols and samples.

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

Yes

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Yes

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Yes

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I am able to assess the statistics

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