**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Decreased fracture incidence with traditional Chinese medicine therapy in patients with osteoporosis: A nationwide population-based cohort study

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 21 May 2018

**Reviewer:** NORAZLINA BINTI MOHAMED

**Reviewer's report:**

1. **Title:** Suggest to revise: Decreased fracture incidence with traditional Chinese medicine therapy in patients with osteoporosis: A nationwide population-based cohort study

2. Abstract: The first sentence of Results is more suitable for methods.

3. Introduction: Fair content and clear objective.

4. Method:
   i. Exclusion criteria does not include subjects who are taking drugs-supplements that may affect bone metabolism. This may also affect the outcome of the analysis of this study. Authors did mention this issue as a limitation.
   
   ii. Data collected were not explained clearly thus when looking at the tables in Results section, some of the Results are not fully understandable.

5. Results:
   i. Table 3: Not clear why the N is 1245 for non-user, 270 for 30-80 days, and 93 for > 180 days. Unlike the N in Table 2.
   
   ii. Table 4: Not clear what is meant by frequency and number of person-days.

6. Discussion:
   i. Need to be more elaborated; eg What does longer follow-up period indicates?
   
   ii. Some aspects of the results were not discussed despite showing significant findings. eg urbanization level, comorbidities. What do these findings indicate?
iii. Are all the TCMs listed in Table 4 have beneficial effects on bone? Authors only quoted Salviae miltiorrhiza Radix in the discussion.

7. References: Kindly revise for format and typo. And there's reference which is incomplete.

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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