Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 16 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Yuankun Zhai

Reviewer's report:

The authors assumed that TCM decrease the fracture rate based on nationwide, population cohort study. The interpretations are in accord with the results obtained. However, there still have some problems and need minor substantive revisions before this paper be accepted.

(1) In TCM theory, not all traditional Chinese medicine can prohibit osteoporosis, such as tonify Yin and diarrhea medicine not strength bone quality, even induce osteoporosis. So the title may not accurate and need be changed, to more specify to indicate which kind of herb medicine will decrease fracture rates, such as tonify kidney and liver, promoting blood circulation for removing blood stasis, or some other effects of TCM.

(2) Whether authors record patients in TCM group take other medicines or not? How the authors control this? So do the non-TCM group?

(3) The author assumed that TCM could decrease the fracture rate, why the author did not divide the fracture into Hip fracture, Spine fracture or wrist fracture? Please give some explanation.

(4) Why the author did not compare the changes of bone mineral density (BMD) in TCM group and non-TCM group? Please give an explanation.
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.

No

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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