Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy and Safety of Ban-Lan-Gen Granules in the Treatment of Seasonal Influenza: Study Protocol For a Randomized Controlled Trial

Authors:

Zheng-tu Li (tu276025@163.com)
Li Li (1587074266@qq.com)
Ting-ting Chen (lkting@126.com)
Chu-yuan Li (lichuyuan@813zy.com)
De-qin Wang (wangdeqin@813zy.com)
Zi-feng Yang (jeffyah@163.com)
Nan-shan Zhong (nanshan@vip.163.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Doug Altman, Curt Furberg, Jeremy Grimshaw and Dr. ZX Bian,

Thank you again very much for kind and nice review on our manuscript entitled “Efficacy and Safety of Ban-Lan-Gen Granules in the Treatment of Seasonal Influenza: Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial (MS: 7951262551537544)”. We apologize for all the short points in our previous manuscript. To address your and the reviewer’ comments, we have carefully read through and corrected our manuscript. Our point-by-point responses to the reviewer' comments (in italics) are as follows, and the corresponding changes are highlighted in red color in the revised paper.

Response to reviewer and editor’ comments

Reviewer:
1. *SPIRIT is the abbreviation of 'Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials’, not GCP. Please follow the format.*

Response: We apologize for the mistakes we made. Reference to “SPIRIT 2013 Statement: Defining Standard Protocol Items for Clinical Trials”, our protocol guideline is mainly according to the standard protocol items. Our protocol includes “trial registration, study aims, study design, the number calculations of participant, inclusion and exclusion criteria, treatment allocation and interventions methods, the primary and secondary outcomes, the blinding making method, reporting adverse events, data analysis and management plans, safety and ethics, etc.” Therefore, our protocol follows up the format of SPIRIT. And when the protocol was performed, we had closely followed up this protocol and insured this study can be completed perfectly. At the same time, we make sure that the clinical data is true and reliable, and we ensure safety of the patients.

Editor:
1. Please include an additional file title and legend section after the figure legend section.

Response: The detail of additional file title and legend section as follow:

Additional 1: **The product inspection report of BLG (the Chinese edition).** The Ban-Lan-Gen (BLG) granules were produced by Hutchison Whampoa Guangzhou Baiyunshan Chinese Medicine Company Limited. The items, including shape and properties, solubleness, bacterial count, etc, of the BLG granules were tested, and they were conformed to the quality requirements of People’s Republic of China Pharmacopoeia in 2010.

Additional 2: **The product inspection report of placebo (the Chinese edition).** The placebo was produced by Hutchison Whampoa Guangzhou Baiyunshan Chinese Medicine Company Limited. The items, including shape and properties, solubleness, bacterial count, etc, of the placebo were tested, and they were conformed to the quality requirements of People’s Republic of China Pharmacopoeia in 2010.

We hope you find we have carefully and thoroughly addressed your and the reviewer’s suggestions, and our revised manuscript is sufficiently improved for publication in your journal. Your favorable consideration will be greatly appreciated. Again, thank you very much for your help with our manuscript.

Sincerely,

Zi-feng Yang