Author's response to reviews

Title: Effects of traditional Chinese medicine Shu Gan Jian Pi granules on patients with breast cancer and cancer-related fatigue: Study protocol for a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

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Replies to the Referees:

First we thank you for your valuable comments and suggestions. We have paid full attention to them for improving our revised manuscript. We revised the whole manuscript very carefully. Hopefully we have addressed all of your concerns. The following is our reply to all the questions.

1. “Give the rationale for the formula selection.”

Reply1: Cancer-related fatigue is belonged to syndrome of liver qi stagnation and asthenia of splenic qi in traditional Chinese medicine rationale. The liver possesses physiological function: to dredge and regulate. The failure of the liver to disperse and stagnation of qi due to emotional depression. So breast cancer patients manifested emotional depression, migratory pain in the chest. If the liver fails to dredge and disperse and invades the spleen, it will cause dysfunction of muscles and the four limbs. So breast cancer patients manifested fatigue. Su Gan Jian Pi granules can relieve the syndrome, which compose of six herbs including Radix Astragali (HuangQi), Radix Bupleuri (ChaiHu), Radix Angelicae Alba (DangGui), and other three herbs. Radix Astragali (Huang Qi)’s action is replenish qi. Radix Bupleuri (Chai Hu)’s action is disperse the stagnated liver qi. Other four herbs have same action.

2. “Give the data about the quality control of formulation and placebo.”

Reply2: I provide infrared fingerprint spectrum picture of herbs at the end of the article, which can guarantee the consistence of granules composition in same batch of production.
3.

“Please explain how to consider the syndrome of participants.”

In our previous study, the syndrome of liver qi stagnation and asthenia of splenic is the most important syndrome in participants with Cancer-related fatigue. In the study, we recruit participants with the syndrome.