Reviewer's report

Title: Chinese herbal medicine TangBi Formula treatment of patients with type 2 diabetic distal symmetric polyneuropathy disease: Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 22 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Othmar Moser

Reviewer's report:

Minor concerns:

An interesting topic addressing an important issue in the treatment of diabetic complications. The design outlined by the authors bears potential for results contributing to diabetic patients' health. The approach of implementing traditional medicine to treat DSPN is interesting and in combination with a sufficient sample size will lead to significant results. However, the submitted manuscript lacks details in background and methods section which demand revision. Furthermore, language used throughout the manuscript needs urgent revision to meet the standards of the journal.

1. Minor: Language, spelling and punctuation needs thorough revision throughout the manuscript.

2. Minor: In 'background', page 3 line 25 to line 34 seems to be repetitive and lacks an introducing sentence about 'type 2 diabetes' instead of just a general statement about 'deleterious complications of diabetes'.

3. Minor: In the inclusion criteria, a statement regarding glycaemic control of the participants should be included.

3a. In addition, a more detailed statement of type 2 diabetes instead of only 'diabetes' should be included in the inclusion criteria.

4. Minor: Page 6 line 9 'EMG nerve conduction velocity decreases'. A definition of how a decrease in EMG nerve velocity is defined would contribute significantly to the manuscript.

5. Minor: Details about the procedure/technique used to measure the secondary outcome 'nerve conduction velocity' is missing in the manuscript.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Quality of figures
All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review
Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.

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