Reviewer’s report

Title: The Vitamin C, Thiamine, and Steroids in patients with Sepsis (VICTAS) Protocol: A prospective, multi-center, double-blind, adaptive sample size, randomized, placebo-controlled, clinical trial

Version: 0 Date: 02 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Renliang He

Reviewer’s report:

1. The inclusion and exclusion criteria section, what about a patient with fever or hypothermia?

2. Data Collection and Data Analysis section, the primary outcomes were observed during the 30 days following randomization, but why "contacted by phone" at 180 days? Why observing "the mortality, physical, emotional and cognitive outcomes" at 180 days? Why not 30 days, 3 months, or 1 year? Please clarify.

3. As a multi-center clinical trial, how did you get the ethical support? Obtain ethical approval from each center, or other way? Vitamin C, Thiamine, and Steroids, each get a special ethical approval or together? Please clarify.

4. When combined with three drugs, how to get the appropriate dosage? What are the possible drug interactions and adverse events among these drugs? How to deal with them?

5. This clinical trial used three drugs simultaneously, respective mechanism of action is completely different, how to evaluate the clinical effect of drugs? Synergy or superposition? How to clarify the mechanism?

6. Exclusion Criteria should include upper age limit.

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