Author’s response to reviews

Title: Binafuxi Granules in the treatment of common cold with heat syndrome based on traditional Uighur medicine: study protocol for a multicenter randomized controlled trial

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Response to Reviewer #1 (Zehuai Wen, M.D.) as follows:

Q: The SPIRIT is a guidance for reporting a study protocol, not for study procedure. You might describe that "The study protocol comply with the Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials (SPIRIT)” (Page 9). The author used ANOVA method to estimate sample size with the primary outcome time to fever relief (Page 15) and Kaplan-Meier method was described in statistical analysis (Page 16). Please explain the reason.

A: Thank you so much for your suggestion. We have modified the words on the Page 9. In our study, we primarily planned to compare the difference of the primary outcome-time to fever relief among the three groups by using ANOVA with Bonferroni method. Thus, we used ANOVA method to estimate sample size with this primary outcome time to fever relief. Besides, the Kaplan-Meier method and log-rank test was planned to be used to further measure the patient’s fevering for a certain amount of time, as time to fever relief is generally seemed as a "lifetime data", usually analyzed by survival analysis. We have added these details in the revised manuscript (Page 16).