Reviewer’s report

Title: Manual acupuncture for the infertile female with polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS): study protocol for a randomized sham-controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 30 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Chunhui Bao

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript designed a study of manual acupuncture plus herb medicine for sterile female with polycystic ovary syndrome. This topic is very interesting, and the design is innovative. Several issues need to be addressed before it can be published.

1. Abstract.
Acupuncture is not noninvasive therapy.
Aim: "to evaluate the effect of manual acupuncture in women with PCOS and sterility". but the aim of this study in the title is described as "manual acupuncture plus herb medicine for sterile female with PCOS".

2. Blinding.
"Trial participants, clinic doctor, outcome assessors, data analysts will be blinded to the treatment allocation to minimize potential sources of bias.” How could the authors blind the clinic doctor in this study?

"The same doctor will adjust the formula weekly." The differences and changes of herbal medicine between two groups will affect the outcome severely.

4. Sham acupuncture device.
Whether the sham acupuncture device is first used in this study, or the authors should add references. Also, the authors need add the schematic diagram of acupuncture and sham acupuncture device.

5. Whether a Data and Safety Monitoring Board is established for the data monitoring in this study?

6. Table 3 is not clear enough.

Level of interest
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An article of importance in its field
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Needs some language corrections before being published

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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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