Reviewer's report

Title: Chinese herbal medicine Tangshen Formula Treatment For Type 2 Diabetic Kidney Disease in Early Stage: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 03 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Kirsty Loudon

Reviewer's report:

This is the editorial comment. * English - This protocol, abstract and full protocol, need to be checked by a native English speaker for grammar, punctuation, tenses and to remove unnecessary words and sentence. * Example 1: in the Abstract, unnecessary - "However, the current therapies for DKD are not entirely perfect." Example 2: The table "Visit of time points for data collection" is not correct English and uses a phrase which is unclear "Merge disease and medication". Please check meaning and edit so can be clearly understood by the reader in English. * "Third-party statisticians" is not the usual phrase - I cannot see them acknowledged for their efforts under Acknowledgements and they should be named. * Figure 1 has "vists" instead of "visits". * Abbreviations are also used without clarification. They must be written out in full first time they are used even though there is a table with abbreviations at the end of the protocol e.g. in the abstract: "The primary outcome will be changes in ACR..." and use of the acronym "GFR". * The font also changes throughout the text and needs to be edited to be consistent with journal guidelines. * SPIRIT checklist - It is not acceptable to state N/A, YES or simply consent form. Further information is required. Item 2b: All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set cannot write YES! Suggest refer to Item 2a and registration in ClinicalTrials.gov Item 31 Dissemination needs clarification, N/A is not acceptable. Item 31b If written by the authors and not professional writer then say so. Item 31c If no information will be released to the public then this needs to be stated. Item 33 N/A is not acceptable - if no biological specimens will be taken then say so. 6 references are not validated so please check your references and edit.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
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**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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