Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating the therapeutic efficacy of the Chinese herbal medicine, Yishen Tongbi decoction, in patients with active rheumatoid arthritis: Protocol for a randomized, controlled, noninferiority trial

Version: 0 Date: 14 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Sungha Kim

Reviewer's report:

Concerning limitation of current medicine for RA, it is necessary to develop and study clinical trials for the decoction for RA.

1. Please include the detailed amount of each ingredient in Yishen Tongbi decoction, and constituents for placebo of both TCM and MTX.

2. Please add references for Action of TCM, and the previous studies in Sample size section.

3. Please explain the reason to give folic acid for patients of RA.

4. As for outcomes, please explain why you use proportion of patients who achieve good response rather just the change of score.

5. Use standardized terminology for feng, shi, etc.

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

An article of importance in its field

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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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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