Author’s response to reviews

Title: Acupressure Therapy and Liu-Zi-Jue Qigong for Pulmonary Function and Quality of Life in Patients with Severe Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia (COVID-19): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Shuaipan Zhang (18939061729@163.com)
Qingguang Zhu (zhuqingguang@162.com)
Chao Zhan (edyljtzc@163.com)
Wei Cheng (chengwei5200@126.com)
Xiaoming Fang (fzr2007@163.com)
Min Fang (fangmin19650510@163.com)
Lei Fang (fanglei586@126.com)

Version: 3 Date: 13 Aug 2020

Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Editors and Reviewers:

Thank you for your letter and for the reviewers’ comments concerning our manuscript entitled “Acupressure Therapy and Liu Zi Jue Qigong for Pulmonary Function and Quality of Life in Patients with Severe Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia (COVID-19): a study protocol for a randomized controlled trial” (ID: TRLS-D-20-00232). Those comments are all valuable and very helpful for revising and improving our paper, as well as the important guiding significance to our researches. We have read comments carefully and have made correction which we hope meet with approval. Most of the revised portion are marked in red in the paper and the language of the manuscript has been professionally edited. The main corrections in the paper and the responds to the editor’s and reviewer’s comments are as follows:

Responds to the reviewer’s comments:

Reviewer #2:

1. Could the English please be checked again especially in the figures as I have found a spelling mistake in figure 2.
Response: I apologize for the spelling error again; we have checked the full figures and the spelling error has been corrected.
2. With regards to the number of multiple imputations, could the authors provide a reference for rationale behind completing 5 imputations. The added detail about this also needs to be read carefully as it doesn't make complete sense.

Also, could the authors please make it clearer if multiple imputation will be used in the primary analysis or if complete case will be used as primary analysis? If it is the case the multiple imputation will be used in primary analysis then I would advise the complete case be completed as a sensitivity analysis. Could the authors please also include at what percentage of missing data would mean that multiple imputation will be used along with an appropriate reference.

Response: I have revised the content of this part from line 361 to line 367 in the article, and provided the corresponding references, as follows: The percentage of missing data is 20% and we plan to generate 5 imputed datasets, which is the minimum recommended number. The sensitivity analyses were carried out to assess two assumptions about missing data and data imputation scenarios can potentially influence the primary result. To account for missing data, our primary analyses were conducted on an imputed data set where missing values were generated using multiple imputation by chained equations (MICE).

Reviewer #3:

1. there are still a few grammatical errors in the original manuscript and in the new text. Eg "All these funding is a wider group of projects and apply to this study. Totally, the trial sponsor are the Shanghai Municipal Government and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine." Should read something like: "This funding relates to a wider group of projects and applies to this study. The trial sponsor is the Shanghai Municipal Government and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine."

Response: I agree with you about the language modification and take your opinion. As an author from a country that is not native English, I have sought the help of a language editor as much as possible.

**We tried our best to improve the manuscript and made some changes in the manuscript. These changes will not influence the content and framework of the paper. And here we did not list the changes but marked in red in revised paper.

We appreciate for Editors/Reviewers’ warm work earnestly, and hope that the correction will meet with approval.

Once again, thank you very much for your comments and suggestions.

Your sincerely

Lei Fang