Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 0 Date: 05 May 2020

Reviewer: Alexander Gough

Reviewer's report:

TRLS-D-20-00232
SPIRIT review
This is a timely trial as it is important to find adjunctive treatments for this condition. There are a number of specific comments about the trial protocol that need addressing which are listed below.
More generally, the manuscript needs extensive revision by an English speaker for language. In most places where there are errors, the meaning is clear, but the grammar or spelling is incorrect. In some places however, the errors make the meaning unclear.

2b It is recommended to include a table of WHO organisation Trial Registration Data Set in the manuscript.
5b Please specify the name and contact information for the trial sponsor
5c Please specify the role of the sponsor if applicable
6b Please explain the choice of comparator - why did you choose standard therapy?
7 Could you clarify what you mean by your second research question on page 6
8 Please confirm this is a superiority trial
11c Please describe strategy for monitoring adherence to the intervention, especially the Liuzijue Qigong
14 Could you clarify the clinical assumptions in arriving at your sample size? What level of improvement were you looking for to get this result?
16c Please clarify who will enrol participants
18a If possible please provide data on the reliability and validity of the MDS and ADL primary outcome measures. Please provide data collection forms or refer to where they can be found
18b Please detail any plans to promote participant retention
19 Please list any measures to promote data security and how it will be stored
20c Please explicitly describe which participants will be included in the main analyses and define the study group in which they will be analysed (eg as randomised).
21a Please declare the data administrator in the Science and Technology Department is independent and how they will report
21b Please describe any interim analyses planned

25 Please give more detail on plans to communicate important protocol modifications to relevant parties

29 Please state why availability of data and materials is not applicable in this study

30 Please give more detail in the manuscript about provisions for patients who suffer harm during the trial
31b Please clarify which authors will be eligible to be included as authors on the final trial report, and whether any professional writers will be utilised.

31c Please state any plans for public access to the protocol, dataset and code

32 Please supply a model consent from as part of the manuscript or an additional document

33 Please give more detail on the collection, laboratory evaluation and storage of biological specimens for possible future use.

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

An article of importance in its field

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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.

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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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Yes: Karla Hemming