Reviewer’s report

Title: The Effect of Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program plus Chemotherapy on Quality of Life in Patients with Postoperative Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: A study protocol of a multi-center randomized clinical trial

Version: 0 Date: 03 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Jennifer Cunningham-Erves

Reviewer's report:

Review for article "The Effect of Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program plus Chemotherapy on Quality of Life of Patients with Postoperative Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A study protocol of multi-center randomized clinical trials".

Summary: This article seeks to describes a research protocol that evaluates the effects of a comprehensive rehabilitation program based on Chinese Herbal Medicine and Liuzijue exercise combined with adjuvant chemotherapy on patients with postoperative non-small cell lung cancer. The target population was patients aged 18 and 74 years who have complete researched stage IIB-Illla NSCLC. This article is timely as we need to identify innovative strategies to improve lung cancer treatment among patients. There are minor revisions needed for this article. Below I provide my review.

Abstract

1. The abstract reads well. It could benefit from adding to the purpose the comparison group for this study.

2. The flow of study including evaluation should be added to the methods. For example, the follow-up period is not included in the methods and would be beneficial for the abstract in receiving the overview of the protocol.

Introduction

1. The paper highlights the public health problem and describes current work in this area and the need for this work. However, the objective is unclear. The purpose / objective could benefit from adding the additional treatment and control groups to increase clarity. You can also add this as a secondary objective.

Methods

2. Under study design, the intervention and control group information should be removed since there are select sections for this information. You also have figure 2 to refer to for the design of this information.
3. The recruitment strategy is unclear. It states doctors' referrals but is this through use of their EHR or some other method? Please clarify.

4. Under diagnostic criteria, please define diagnostic criteria of primary bronchial lung cancer.

5. Under randomization, the authors state randomization will occur via the internet. Please explain.

6. Also, will blinding occur? If so, please describe. If not, please state how confidentiality will be maintained.

7. Under intervention, please describe the intervention using the information under study design and make it clear what each group will receive.

8. Create a subheading for measurements so that the reader can separate the intervention and measurements sections.

9. Also create a data collection section and tell the readers how this information will be collected.

10. Are there any plans for interim monitoring?

Discussion

1. Does inclusion and exclusion criteria improve the homogeneity of baseline values? If so, shouldn't this be included in the discussion as a quality control criteria.

Overall Considerations

1. This paper could benefit from a review of grammatical and mechanical errors.

2. Also, the paper uses past, present, and future tense throughout. Please correct to have consistency throughout.
**Level of interest**  
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

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

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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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No