Reviewer’s report

Title: Traditional Chinese herbal medicine for treating novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pneumonia: protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

Version: 0 Date: 18 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Hongyong Deng

Reviewer's report:

As we known, COVID-19 is spreading in China as well as outside it. Lots of TCM interventions are applied in China hospitals to prevent infection and cure infecters. Therefore, we need to review every approches, anti-virus agents and TCM herbs, with an Evidence-based method. On this point, I may say that A good subject for review of this protocol, and I'm happy to expect the results based on the protocol. Some suggestions: 1, TCM is a very broad concept, which includes thousands of interventions. I don't think it is a good term of intervention for reviews. Nobody can image a protocol titled 'Western Medicine for treating novel coronavirus ...'. Why not choose an exact intervention word, such as acupuncture, Shuanghuanglian oral liquid, to build your protocol title? 2, Again on the TCM interventions, the protocol choose 'Traditional Chinese herbal medicine' as the intervention, which may induce high level of clinical heterogeneity while the reviewer try to pool different herbs and/or its mixtures into an effect measure. To avoid this, an exact intervention is strongly recommened to choose again. 3, This a timely project, and therefore a more efficient schedule of full review is required. Thanks and good luck.

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

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