

Comment on 10.1186/s12985-023-02144-6

Concerns are raised regarding the article [1].

Table S1. A list of the participating center and the number of patients enrolled

Site No.	Country	Hospital	Principal investigator	No. enrolled
2	China	Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center	Yun Ling	154
3	China	The Third People's Hospital of Shenzhen	Hong-zhou Lu/ Jing Yuan	90
4	China	Guangzhou Eighth People's Hospital, Guangzhou Medical University	feng-yu Hu/ Xing-hua Tan	48
5	China	Yunnan Provincial Infectious Disease Hospital	Xing-qi Dong	0
6	China	Public Health Clinical Center of Chengdu	Liang-shuang Jiang/ Yi Mao	128
7	China	Kunming Third People's Hospital	Jian-jie Jiang	8
8	China	Tangshan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine	Hui-min Sun	10
10	China	Hefei Binhu Hospital	Zhen Ding	6
11	China	The Affiliated Hospital of Changchun University of TCM	Li-xiu Zhang	79
13	China	First People's Hospital of Zhengzhou City	Ren-jie Liu	8
14	China	Xi'an Chest Hospital	Xing Gu	12
15	China	Fuzhou Pulmonary Hospital of Fujian	Xiao-hong Chen	1
101	Thailand	Srinagarind Hospital	Piroon Mootsikapun	112
102	Thailand	Siriraj Hospital	Methee Chayakulkeeree	80
103	Thailand	Burapha University Hospital	Pureepat Arttaweikul	60
202	The Philippines	Dr. Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital and Sanitarium	Roxan A. Perez	21
301	Vietnam	Traditional Medicine Institute of Ho Chi Minh City	Truong Thi Ngoc Lan	43

While the article [1] states both that “the FLOSAN trial recruited patients with mild-to-moderate COVID-19 from 12 hospitals in China, 3 hospitals in Thailand, and one hospital each in Vietnam and the Philippines between February and December 2022” and that “the FLOSAN trial was registered with Chinese Clinical Trial Registry (No.: ChiCTR2200056727)”; however, the actual registry record (ChiCTR2200056727) lists only one Thai hospital (Siriraj Hospital) and no hospital from the Philippines among the participating institutions.

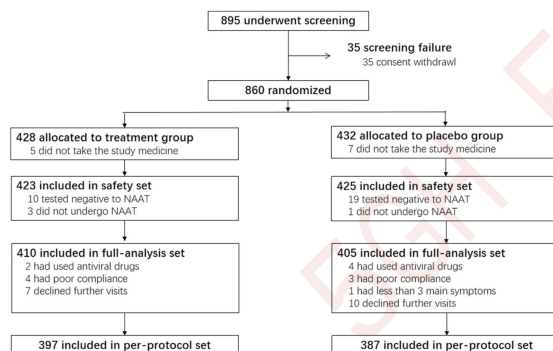


Fig. 1 Study flow chart. FAS: full analysis set; PPS: per protocol set

In this study, 895 participants were recruited; however, how they were selected remains unclear. Nonrandom recruitment methods, such as the open- advertisement approach used in another study by Zhong Nanshan's team [2], often introduce selection bias. The approach used to select these 895 participants should therefore be disclosed in greater detail.

Furthermore, the Lianhua Qingwen used in this study was provided by the Shijiazhuang Yiling Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd, which may cause conflict of interest. The outcomes of this study should be interpreted with caution.

[1] 10.1186/s12985-023-02144-6

[2] 10.1038/s44360-026-00149-3

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