

## **Appendix 1. Interview topic guide**

The following topic guide was used to help researchers guide participants back to the research question if the interview diverged from the topic or if the answers were too short to be analyzed. Interviewers either repeated the question or asked additional questions to facilitate the process.

### **Introduction**

- We wish to hear about your experiences as a participant enrolled in an acupuncture related clinical trial for atrial fibrillation.

### **Atrial Fibrillation Experiences**

- Before going into the research questions, I would like to hear about your atrial fibrillation experiences.
- What were your experiences when you first received your atrial fibrillation diagnosis and what symptoms did you have?
- What type of treatment did you receive before coming to our hospital?
- What brought you to our hospital?

### **Experience before participating in research**

- Next I would like to hear about your experiences when you made your decision to take part in the clinical trial.
- What made you participate in the research? Was there anything that you expected out of it?
- Did you think that acupuncture would help? If yes, why? If not, why not?
- Did you have any expectations about acupuncture?

### **Experience of clinical research and treatment**

- Tell me about your experiences of participating in the clinical research.
- Have you ever participated in another clinical trial before? If yes, were there any differences with the other clinical trial?
- Have you ever received acupuncture treatment before? If yes, were there any

differences with your past acupuncture experiences? Was there any differences in the trial from the real clinic?

- Do you think that the acupuncture treatment you received from the trial was helpful? If yes, in what aspects do you think it was helpful? If not, why not?
- Were there any changes in your symptoms? If yes, what do you think made the changes?
- How was the treatment you received from your Korean Medicine doctor?
- How was the treatment you received from you Cardiologist?
- Is there anything you haven't liked or that has worried you?
- Tell me about the treatments you have received other than acupuncture treatment. Which therapy do you think helped the most?

### **Experience after participating in the trial**

- Are you satisfied with your decision to participate in the clinical trial?
- How did you feel before and after the clinical trial? Is there anything you haven't liked or that has worried you?
- Did you get what you wanted by participating in the clinical trial?
- Would you recommend this clinical trial to friends or family with atrial fibrillation? If yes, why? If not, why not?
- Are you willing to receive acupuncture treatment for diseases other than atrial fibrillation?
- If you have any suggestions to improve the clinical trial, please let us know.
- Please feel free to tell me anything else that you would like to add.

### **Follow up question.**

- Is there any other information that you would like to add to yesterday's interview?