Reviewer’s report

Title: A randomized controlled trial of acupuncture to treat functional constipation: Design and protocol

Version: 2
Date: 21 July 2014

Reviewer: HYANGSOOK LEE

Reviewer’s report:

The authors made a great deal of efforts to revise their protocol which now seems more readily understandable and improved.

However, some minor but important errors or wrongly made corrections are to be modified.

[Minor Essential Revisions]

1. Regarding the questionnaires to be used in this study, the authors provided the original studies which are about English versions of those questionnaires. The references of them should be replaced with the Chinese validation studies of those questionnaires. For example, the reference of Zung’s self-rating depression scale, should be “C.F. Wang, Z.H. Cai, Q. Xu. Evaluation analysis of self-rating depression disorder scale in 1,340 people. Chin J Nervous Mental Dis, 12 (2009), pp. 267–268” and for Zung’s self-rating anxiety scale, the reference should be “X.C. Liu, M.Q. Tang, K. Chen, L. Hu, A.Z. Wang, H.X. Wu. Factor analysis of self-rating anxiety scale. Chin J Nervous Mental Dis, 33 (1995), pp. 303–306”. Please provide all the references for CHINESE versions of the questionnaires to be used.

2. The reference 17 is actually a Korean study which cannot support the authors’ claim, “acupuncture and moxibustion as effective complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) have been widely use to treat FC in China and clinically adopted in the western world.” Also, ‘use’ should be corrected to ‘used’ along with other typos and errors (e.g. trail should be trial).

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.