

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:**Acupuncture for functional dyspepsia: a protocol for a multi-center, randomized-controlled trial

**Version:1****Date:**28 December 2013

**Reviewer:**Zhaoxiang Bian

### **Reviewer's report:**

1. It is necessary to have a systematic review about acupuncture for FD, and use its results to support this study. From this point of view, Background part should be revised further based on the systematic results.
2. The rationale of selection of ghrelin as a target is too loose. As mentioned in the manuscript, there are many factors are related. Why ghrelin? Even there is change of ghrelin level after acupuncture, there is possibility that it is not the underlying mechanism.
3. What is the rationale to select four weeks as treatment course? Based on the Rome III criteria recommendation, the treatment course for FGID is 16weeks.
4. Any follow up assessment? From what presented in page 9, there is follow up visit. It is necessary to present in the Design part.
5. The study period is from Aug 2013 to Jan 2014. It is long enough for the whole study, in terms of patient recruitment, visit?
6. There is only two centers in this trial,it is better to use two centres, instead of "multi-centres".
7. How many samples of each centre?
8. Please provide the screening sheet of the study. How to exclude the potential organic disease patients, such as peptic ulcer?
9. Please follow up the standard of SPIRIT to present the protocol
10. The needles used in each patient may vary from 9-19. Why such big variation is needed?
11. As mentioned in the "Acupuncture group", the participants will be followed up for four weeks with six telephone visits and pay a final visit at ten weeks. How to do six telephone visits in four weeks? If each patient will go through ten weeks, whether the studying period (4 months) is enough?
12. Sample size calculation is based on the clinical experience and report about IBS. It is better to have a pilot study thus to collect data for sample size calculation.

**Level of interest:**An article of importance in its field

**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'