Reviewer's report

Title: Comparing Recruitment Strategies in a Study of Acupuncture for Chronic Back Pain

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Reviewer: Jean-Francois Chenot

Reviewer's report:

This is a secondary analysis of a randomized controlled trial evaluating the effectiveness of acupuncture for chronic low back pain. The aim of this secondary analysis is to compare possible differences in patients recruited with two different recruitment strategies. The paper is overall sound and well written and I have only few suggestions.

Minor revisions

Abstract

The abstract is fine as it is.

Introduction

The rational for the project is well explained

Method section

This is only a minor detail. Since all participants invited into the study where member of the same health care plan, I suppose they received the health plan magazine with the advertisement to recruit patients. I am not sure how this is interacting; it is for example conceivable that this might have reinforced recruitment by mail.

Results

The results are well displayed.

Discussion

Comparison with existing literature is appropriate. The conclusion is in line with the results.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

JFC