Reviewer’s report

Title: Changes in cytokine production in healthy subjects practicing Guolin Qigong: A pilot study

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Reviewer: Dr Kenneth Sancier

Level of interest: A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

Advice on publication: Accept after revision, which I do not need to see

Comments
1. p. 3, 1, l (line) 4: Did the quoted authors really perform qi emission on cells in vivo?
2. p. 3, 2, l 3: There was a paper published by JJ Tsuei claiming that emitted qi could also enhance cell growth.
3. p. 3, 3, l 3: There have been peer reviewed studies of alteration in the immune system by Higuchi et al (See Reference List below).
4. p. 4, 2, l 1: This sentence is speculation. You might want to rather use the first sentence on p. 8, 4 in the introduction.
5. p. 11, 2, l 1-4: This sentence seems to be the essence of your paper for which you have collected evidence. It would help the reader if it, or some equivalent, were place in the introduction.
6. Reference 3: The correct title of the paper is: Medical applications of qigong.
7. The figures would be more readable if:
   a. Ordinate labels are difficult to read; I recommend using standard script that can be read sideways.
   b. Place labels after the "A" or "B" notation indicating the subject. For example, IL6 production for the A section of Fig. 2.
8. I recommend that a person knowledgeable in immunology also review the paper.

The conclusions drawn are adequately supported by the data.

Reference List

Third Symposium of Life Information Science.
Higuchi, Y., Kotani, Y., Higuchi, H., and Minegishi, Y., 1999a, Endocrine Changes during Qigong
Higuchi, Yuzo, Kotani, Yasunori, Kitagawa, Jun, and Nakahara, Yoshibumi. Cortisol, catecholamines and beta-endorphin levels in plasma during and after qi mobilization in qigong. 4th Intl Conf on Qigong, 3-4. 95.
Proceedings of First Symposium of Life Information Science, without peer review.

**Competing interests:**

None declared.