Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The effectiveness of moxibustion for the treatment of functional constipation: a randomized, sham-controlled, patient blinded, clinical trial

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 27 September 2011

**Reviewer:** Zhaoxiang Bian

**Reviewer’s report:**

The study titled with “The effectiveness of moxibustion for the treatment of functional constipation: a randomized, sham-controlled, patient blinded, clinical trial” is an interesting one. Concerns about the manuscript involve the trial design and results interpretation. The major concerns are as follows:

1. How the randomization was conducted?
2. How about the severity of the constipation based on BSS scale?
3. How about the successful rate of blinding?
4. What is the base for sample size calculation?
5. What is the base to decide the treatment course?
6. The reporting style donot match CONSORT standards very well.
7. The shortcoming of the study should be added.
8. Based on the sample size and the nature of this study, it is only a pilot one.

**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:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'