Author's response to reviews

Title: Motion style acupuncture treatment (MSAT) for acute low back pain with severe disability: a multicenter, randomized, controlled trial protocol

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Reviewer

RE: Motion style acupuncture treatment (MSAT) for acute low back pain with severe disability: a multicenter, randomized, controlled trial protocol (MS: 803303585635748)

On behalf of my co-author, I sincerely thank you for re-reviewing our revised manuscript, and accepting our newly revised version for submission. We appreciate the reviewer’s thoughtful comments on our work, and for the effort and time he has put into the re-reviewing of our manuscript and believe that his constructive suggestions have resulted in a stronger manuscript for the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine’s readers.

Reviewer Comments and Answers

Major Compulsory Revisions:
1. Statistical Analysis, page 15: Statistical testing via a t-test, Mann-Whitney U-test, Chi-squared test or Fisher’s are irrelevant to practitioners and patients. Your primary statistical calculations should provide effect size and/or number needed to treat with a measure of precision (e.g., 95% confidence interval).

Answer and revised>
As commented by the reviewer, we added that we will calculate the effect size (Cohen’s $d$) with 95% confidence interval. (in page 14 line 23~ line 25)

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Abstract. Discussion, Rewrite “The results of this trial will provide evidence for the effectiveness of MSAT as a treatment for acute low back pain.”
Recommend: “The results of this trial will be discussed.”

Answer and revised>

We revised the manuscript according to the reviewer’s comments. (in page 2 line 25)

2. Background. Replace “exists” with “was found” in the following:

“A systematic review of the literature concluded that acupuncture is effective for pain relief and functional improvement in chronic back pain in the short term, but that, for acute back pain, no evidence of the effectiveness of acupuncture exists[15].”

Answer and revised>

We changed the manuscript in accordance with the reviewer’s suggestions. (in page 5 line 1)

3. Background. Rewrite the following:

“However, there are a variety of ways to administer acupuncture. Therefore, the results may vary if acupuncture is selected according the characteristics of the disease (e.g., acute or chronic). Motion style acupuncture treatment (MSAT) is different from traditional acupuncture treatments, and it is used to reduce musculoskeletal pain and improve functional status in South Korea.”

Recommend:

“There are a variety of ways to administer acupuncture. Motion style acupuncture treatment (MSAT) is different from traditional acupuncture treatments, and is often used in South Korea. Yet, we have not found any clinical trials examining the effectiveness of MSAT.”

Answer and revised>

We altered the manuscript according to the reviewer’s comments. (in page 5 line 2~ line 5)
Thank you for your valuable comments.