Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of self-administered auricular acupressure on smoking cessation-a pilot study

Version: 1 Date: 10 January 2012

Reviewer: Jeffery Dusek

Reviewer's report:

This is an well-designed study and results will be useful for the field of integrative medicine. This paper should be published in the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The only major compulsory revision recommendation would be for the authors to add a questionnaire assessing their treatment expectancy in belief that the intervention could result in smoking cessation.

It is important that subjects perceive the two interventions (Verum and sham) as equally credible and as promoting a comparable degree of expectation for improvement. To address this issue, the applicants could ask subjects to rate treatment expectancy for improvement, credibility of the intervention, and satisfaction with the intervention. Subjects could complete this rating after the second session of treatment and at post-intervention), using a treatment rationale scale as developed by Borkovec and colleagues.


Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.