Author's response to reviews

Title: Acupuncture as a therapeutic treatment option for threatened miscarriage.

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Author's response to reviews:

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Carmela Quidoles
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Dear Ms Quidoles

Thank you for your e-mail informing us of the outcome from the peer review for the debate article “Acupuncture as a therapeutic treatment option for threatened miscarriage.”

We appreciate your reviewer’s comments and have addressed the following points in the revised manuscript

Reviewer 1.

1) Concerned was expressed that we were unable to support are argument of using acupuncture with supporting evidence. The only existing study was originally excluded due to the poor methodology but has now been tabled and discussed within the article (reference 39).

2) Additional supporting research has been discussed that relates to acupuncture research within fertility practice and the possible relevance that this may have to threatened miscarriage (references 41, 42, 43).
3) It was suggested that objective data be supplied for the references 31 to 37 to support the argument that acupuncture was a treatment modality for threatened miscarriage. These references relate to historical documents within Chinese literature and current textbooks that mention treating threatened miscarriage but do not provide objective data. The text has been rewritten to accurately reflect that these are historical documents and text book references and to clarify that quality research does not exist.

4) The comment was made that at times there was confusion when referring to the entities of 'CAM' and 'Supportive care'. I acknowledge that that this was indeed the case. A definition for supportive care has been added (reference 22) and changes made within the article to clarify the role of CAM practitioners use of supportive care as providing specific aspects of care.

5) The suggestion was made that the table on supportive care should be removed from the article as has the potential to mislead readers to extrapolate the results of this table to acupuncture use. We have clarified within the text how these studies on recurrent miscarriage may have relevance to the treatment of threatened miscarriage. With the additional references made to the existing acupuncture research we are confident that readers will now be able to clearly differentiate the research on supportive care and the research existing on acupuncture.

6) The reference to the study examining acupuncture use with threatened miscarriage that is currently being undertaken has been rewritten to discuss non specific treatment effects how the concept of supportive care is incorporated within this study.

7) The conclusion has been rewritten to more accurately sum up the argument presented throughout the article.

8) The information discussing the use of progesterone supplementation for women presenting with threatened miscarriage has been updated to include the recommendation of the most recent Cochrane review (reference 8).

9) The reference to threatened miscarriage has been updated (reference 2).

Reviewer 2

1) A possible error was highlighted for reference 11 with the title being Australia and not Australasia. As the title of this Clinical Practice Guideline is ‘Women's Hospitals Australasia, the management of early pregnancy loss,’ this reference has not been changed (reference 12).

Thank you for considering this article for publication.

Yours Sincerely

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