Reviewer’s report

Title: Impact of electroacupuncture on quality of life for patients with Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis under treatment with immunomodulators: A randomized study

Version: 3 Date: 23 May 2012

Reviewer: Byung-Cheul Shin

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

In this manuscript, the authors conducted a randomized clinical trial for testing the efficacy of electroacupuncture on quality of life in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis under treatment with immunomodulators. This subject is of interest. Because the RCTs of multiple sclerosis with acupuncture are rare, this uncommon RCT might give good information both researchers and clinicians involved in this area. However, I would like to raise some comments with the expectation of improving this manuscript.

Major comments
1. Please follow the revised STRICTA guideline for acupuncture trials [1].
2. In abstract
   - There is no research aim.
   - Abstract needs to be updated with consistency.
3. Please present the inclusion / exclusion criteria in methods.
4. Please explain the conventional treatment (immunomodulators) of multiple sclerosis of included patients in ‘intervention’ in Methods in page 5. What are they? Is there any changes?
5. Please supply the simple explanation of the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) in page 6 in methods. Which range? What is the meaning of this scale?
6. Was the blinding of patients successful?
7. In statistical analysis,
   - Please supply the information of sample size estimation. Did you estimate the sample size?
   - Which software was used for statistical analysis?

- Please change SD to interquartile range in page 18, Table 1 because the statistics are non-parametric data as median rather than parametric analysis.

8. I think, FAMS total in figure 4 might be better to become figure 3 and all subscale of FAMS including thinking/fatigue of figure 3 might be good to be figure 4.

9. How about reporting the adverse events? Generally, the reporting of safety is common secondary outcome of clinical trials in many trials.

Minor comments

1. Please check abbreviations. Please define it at its first appearance, if defined, please use the defined one.
   E.g.)
   Quality of life, in page4, Background -> QOL
   True electroacupuncture, in page 9, 10, 11 -> TEA
   Quality of life, in 10 -> QOL

2. placebo SEA (in page 7)-> SEA

3. Please check the references. The description methods are not accordance with each other. Please check “the guideline for authors.”

Thank you.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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'