Reviewer's report

Title: Involvement of spinal orexin A in the electroacupuncture analgesia in a rat model of post-laparotomy pain

Version: 2 Date: 2 August 2012

Reviewer: Wei Zhou

Reviewer's report:

The authors examined the involvement of spinal OXA in electroacupuncture (EA) analgesia. They demonstrated that intrathecally administered SB-334867 antagonized OXA analgesia and attenuated the analgesic effect of EA. Naloxone did not affect block the OXA-induced analgesia, suggesting involvement of OXA in EA analgesia via OX1R in an opioid-independent pathway.

General comments

Comments 1: This manuscript requires significant work in terms of grammar and mechanics use. I strongly encourage the authors to go through the manuscript again with a fine-comb to assess errors in grammar and mechanics use.

Comment 2: Introduction: The third paragraph in page 4 should be moved to the Method section.

Comments 3: Accurate intrathecal injection to L6 should be confirmed with dye. The authors should mention if the intrathecally administered OXA agonist will circulate to the higher regions (i.e. brain).

Comments 4: The OXA concentration in the hypothalamus, PAG and spinal cord regions should be quantified by microdialysis technique and ELISA or by using mRNA expression.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.