Reviewer's report

Title: Acupuncture treatment as experienced by women with polycystic ovary syndrome: a qualitative study

Version: 1 Date: 4 February 2012

Reviewer: Kathleen Hoeger

Reviewer's report:

The authors submit a novel qualitative assessment on the acceptance of acupuncture in PCOS.

Major compulsory revisions
1. The introductory comments are somewhat redundant and could be strengthened by a more concise hypothesis for the present study. Additional explanation for the value of qualitative assessment of the acupuncture experience would be helpful.

2. The authors should clarify if any of the subjects continued to use acupuncture after the conclusion of the randomized trial or were using any additional treatments for PCOS during the interview portion which appeared to be 4-12 months after the conclusion of the trial.

Minor essential revisions
1. First sentence should not say 5-10% of all “fertile” women but rather 5-10% of women of reproductive age since these are often not fertile women.

2. Page 5 under acupuncture triggered things... The subjects in the study should not be referred to as girls but rather women given the age group involved.

Discretionary revisions
1. It may be helpful to comment on in the discussion if there are any other quantitative studies of treatments in PCOS as this is apparently a novel area.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.