Author's response to reviews

Title: Acupuncture for the Treatment of Tinnitus: A Systematic Review

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Author's response to reviews:

Dear Dr. Tom Rowles

Thank you for your sincere comments to our manuscript.

We have now changed our discussion as you pointed out as follows.

"In the included studies, several types of active acupuncture treatment were used: four RCTs used traditional manual body acupuncture [16, 18, 35, 36]; one RCT used electroacupuncture [17]; one RCT used both manual body acupuncture and electroacupuncture [37]; and two RCTs used scalp acupuncture [12, 15]. For all of these different types of needle stimulation, de-qi (i.e., sensation of needling in both practitioners and patients) might be a very important therapeutic factor in both traditional Asian medical viewpoint and neurophysiology [25]. However, the underlying neurophysiologic mechanism of these different acupuncture types according to the stimulating region (body versus scalp) and/or stimulating methods (manual versus electrical stimulation), might not be the same [43-45]. Therefore, the effect of different type of acupuncture on tinnitus should be interpreted apart and cannot be simply pooled altogether in future meta-analysis."

Best regards,

Myeong Soo Lee, PhD