Reviewer's report

Title: Acupuncture and physical exercise for affective symptoms and health-related quality of life in polycystic ovary syndrome: Secondary analysis from a randomized controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 11 March 2013

Reviewer: Kathleen Hoeger

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a secondary evaluation of quality of life measures collected during a prior randomized trial of acupuncture or physical exercise compared to a control non intervention group in women with PCOS. The impact of interventions for PCOS on quality of life is an important consideration given the increasing evidence of depression/anxiety in this population. They demonstrate a reduction in depression and anxiety scores in women treated with acupuncture and improved quality of life measures in both intervention groups

Major revisions

1. Please verify if the physical intervention group received any direct regular contact with the investigators other than guidance phone calls.

2. Given that the control group did not appear to have any regular contact after randomization, is it possible that regular contact without intervention may have similar improvements? While it is not possible to test that in this design, please address the possibility in the discussion.

Discretionary

3. The overall small number of subjects in this trial will limit the power of the study when so many measures are considered. Can the authors estimate the power of this study or the sample size that would be appropriate for proper assessment of these outcome measures?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests