Reviewer's report

Title: Meta-analysis of acupuncture for relieving non-organic dyspeptic symptoms suggestive of gastroparesis in diabetes

Version: 2 Date: 5 May 2013

Reviewer: Huijuan Cao

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The manuscript is seriously hampered by the quality of English used - the meaning of multiple sentences could not be deciphered. Authors may want to consult or get these reviewed by qualified persons.

2. Methods for the systematic review should be more precise. First of all, method of data synthesis should be appropriate regarding to the clinical and statistical heterogeneity. Only the data from trials with same participants, outcomes, intervention and control could be pooled together in a meta-analysis. Authors synthesized the trials with different comparisons into one meta-analysis, it is inappropriate even the subgroups were introduced. Furthermore, quantitative synthesis should not be employed when there was significant statistical heterogeneity (I²>75%), plenty of meta-analysis in this review should be re-wrote as qualitative description.

Searching strategy may also need to be revised. Searching the defined items as Keyword may leave out some of the relevant studies. Appendix of searching details in at least one database (such as PubMed) should be provided.

3. Some necessary references are needed in the text. For example, in the 'Risk of bias', references should be added to indicate which trial described randomization procedures, and etc.

4. In Table 1, details of intervention (such as frequency or treating duration of acupuncture) should be provided, also the dosage of the western drugs should be addressed, too.

5. Since the GRADEpro was used to evaluate the grade of evidence, summary of finding table could be added in the review.

6. There were 14 included trials in this review, but in “adverse events”, authors mentioned “Four out of the 16 trials…,”please make sure no other such kinds of mistakes in the review.

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