Reviewer’s report

Title: The Role of Acupoint Stimulation as an Adjuvant Therapy for Lung Cancer: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 8 October 2013

Reviewer: Yutong Fei

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions
1. In table of characteristics of included studies. Please give details of the purpose for acupuncture, the patient characteristics and the outcomes reported. For example, acupuncture was used for the control of nausea and vomiting side effects of chemotherapy in XX type of lung cancer XX stage patients, etc. And if nausea and vomiting was reported, by which method did the original paper used to collect the information.

2. What were the criteria for the judgment of complete response (CR) and partial response (PR)? If different study used different criteria for CR and PR, it is questionable to do a meta-analysis based on them. (fig 5)

3. The reporting and format of meta-analysis. The unit of the outcomes must be reported. For continuous data, mean and SD and number of participants of each group of each study should be reported. For dichotomous data, number of events and number of participants should be reported.

4. The forest plot is adjustable before print out to pdf format. Please make sure that the forest plot was readable.

5. Please provide risk of bias of each of the included studies.

6. The clinical homogeneity of interventions included in meta-analysis is highly important. In the meta-analysis of the outcome of NK, chen 2005, chen 1997 and zhou 2003 were included. But they not only had totally different types of acupuncture interventions, but also totally different types of basic treatment and control interventions. So it was with the meta-analysis of the outcome of IL-2, etc.

7. I don’t think in the meta-analysis which contained subgroup analysis should give “total” results. Because of the huge intervention heterogeneity between subgroups.

8. In paragraph one, “acupuncture in the study also called acupoint stimulation[1]”. I consulted the first author of the reference [1]. She indicated, and I agreed, that acupuncture is one form of acuppoint stimulation. We don’t agree with you on this definition. We were both systematically trained in acupuncture.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.