Reviewer's report

Title: The synergistic effect of scalp acupuncture and computer-based cognitive training on post-stroke cognitive dysfunction: a study protocol for a randomized factorial controlled trial

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Reviewer: Fan-Rong Liang

Reviewer's report:

I have already reviewed this manuscript and I suggest a modification for this protocol.

I present my comments as follows:

Firstly, in this protocol, there are four groups, which want to test the hypothesis that synergistic effect of scalp acupuncture and RehaCom cognitive training is greater than employing either method. For my opinion, it likes an "1+1>1" argumentation which seems a matter of course.

Secondly, the definition of scalp acupuncture is not selecting acupoint on the head. It is a modern acupuncture therapy which divide scalp according to anatomical location of the brain, such as sensory area, motor area, etc. Selection baihui and shenting is not scalp acupuncture.

Thirdly, in the background, the author mentioned "Several life style interventions (such as smoking cessation, moderation of alcohol intake, healthy diet (e.g., Mediterranean diet), weight control and physical activity) have been used in clinical practice, which potentially can help to prevent progression or occurrence of vascular cognitive impairment", while the conventional treatment also include healthcare education. The protocol should explain and control this influence factor.

Conclusively, I suggest a modification for this manuscript and make a decision after author's modification.