Reviewer’s report

Title: Pain and sensory detection threshold following acupuncture are modulated by the association between coping strategy and acupuncture sensation

Version: 4 Date: 25 June 2014

Reviewer: Shu-Ming Wang

Reviewer’s report:

Overall review: this is the first revision of this manuscript. It improved somewhat however, there are many areas required additional clarification. The researchers intended to establish the relationship of active coping and passive coping attitude of patients and their responses to acupuncture. The idea is interesting. Researchers stated that all participants received pre-determined intensity and participants in the active coping group received visual “Q” about reducing of intensity. In the results section, researchers stated no significant differences of acupuncture intensity between AC and PC. How can it be different especially there were no changes in intensity? And later stated that “the similar finding was observed in the acupuncture intensity with respect to the QST.

Although researcher attempted to address the issue about anxiety level raised by prior reviewer, it was not the chronic anxiety/depression. It is the state and trait of anxiety even any healthy participants may experience. Thus this point is fully not address.

Throughout the results section, researchers are eager to establish their findings correlated to their hypothesis using words such as “tendency” etc to describe results which were not achieve statistical significant. It is a scientific article thus why can not researchers report the results as the results should be.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

None