Reviewer’s report

Title: Acupuncture for Chronic Pelvic Inflammatory Disease: a Qualitative Study of Patients’ Insistence on Treatment

Version: 3 Date: 23 February 2014

Reviewer: Chun-Xiang Su

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This qualitative study provided comprehensive understanding of the reason why people with chronic pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) insisted on being treated by acupuncture. It’s interesting to read the findings. However, there are some issues that need to be addressed and listed as follows.

1. The purpose of this qualitative study was to explore the reasons why people with chronic PID insisted on accepting acupuncture. The last sentence in background, authors mentioned some basic outcomes such as changes in intensity and frequency of pelvic pain, cycle of menstruation, and rate of pregnancy were measured. I wonder why they were measured as these outcomes were not so relevant to this study.

2. In the method section, authors should report whether repeat interviews were conducted because this can influence the richness of data obtained.

3. In the method section, author reported that the interviews were tape-recorded, transcribed verbatim and checked for accuracy. Who checked the interviews and whether transcripts returned to participants for comment and/or correction?

4. Field notes maintain contextual details and non-verbal expressions for data analysis. Author should describe whether field notes were made during the interview.

5. Author should explain why only 15 participants were recruited in this study?

6. In methods, only PID patients who have been treated by acupuncture more than 3 months were recruited in the study. However, in results, author reported that the treatment was stopped for 2 months in 3 participants. It’s contradictory.

7. In results, a description of the coding tree is better to be provided.

8. In results, author described that the rest of the participants were still continuing the therapy except the four stopping receiving acupuncture. Did two participants who have become pregnant continue to be treated by acupuncture?

9. It’s better to provide references for these views. For example, “Patients with chronic PID have mostly suffered from an acute attack, hypoimmunity, and
inappropriate antibiotic management, forming as endometritis, oophoritis, tubo-ovarian abscess or peritonitis.”. “To ensure a long-term effective outcome from acupuncture, the course of therapy is no less than three months.”

10. The abbreviations should be fully explained at their first occurrence in the text, e.g. “LBP” (discussion, fourth paragraph).

My decision on this manuscript is: major compulsory revisions

**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 conflict of interest with this manuscript, and I have not received any funding in relation to this topic.