Reviewer’s report

Title: Electroacupuncture improves cerebral blood flow and attenuates moderate ischemic injury via Angiotensin II and its receptors-mediated mechanism in rats

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Reviewer: Shingo Miyata

Reviewer’s report:

The paper entitled “Electroacupuncture improves cerebral blood flow and attenuates moderate ischemic injury via Angiotensin II and its receptors-mediated mechanism in rats” proposes that EA treatment reduces Angiotensin II upregulation and its signal pathway activation after MCAO.

This report describes an interesting and straightforward investigation that demonstrates a novel response of EA treatment for Angiotensin II signal pathway. The results are potentially interesting; however, there are a number of serious problems with the manuscript.

Overall, the manuscript has not been carefully prepared.

Major points:

1. All IHC images of Control groups are same during 1h to 24h in each Figure. Furthermore, in Model group or in EA group IHC image’s cell sizes are different in comparison with other time images after MCAO in each Figure. Are these IHC images really same levels or positions?

2. No statistically-significant differences have been shown in the all result’s graph. It is necessary to show the significant differences in all graph.

3. Figure 6. EA group (A), CaM and Tublin bands from 15h to control are very similar to EA group, Gq and Tublin bands from 1h to 9h, and from 15h to control. Please explain why different sample (Gq and Tublin data; 1h-9h and 15h-control) blots by western blotting are very similar images. Furthermore, EA group, CaM and Tublin bands from 15h to control are very similar to EA group, Gq and Tublin bands from 1h to 9h. Why?

Minor Comments

Example of typo;
Page2, line 16., MACO --> MCAO

There are number of serious problems with the manuscript.

Therefore, I cannot recommend the acceptance of this paper for publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest
Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests: I declare that I have no competing interests