Reviewer's report

Title: Serotonergic mechanism of the relieving effect of bee venom acupuncture on oxaliplatin-induced neuropathic cold allodynia in rats

Version: 2 Date: 20 August 2014

Reviewer: Liu Shuman

Reviewer's report:

Dr. Ji-Hye Lee et al. studied the mechanism of the relieving effect of bee venom acupuncture on oxaliplatin-induced neuropathic cold allodynia by using SD rats model. The authors revealed that BVA treatment alleviates oxaliplatin-induced acute cold allodynia by using behaviour experiments, and further clarified that PCPA treatment and 5-HT3 receptor antagonist abolished the relieving effect of BVA on oxaliplatin-induced cold allodynia. Therefore, the authors conclude that BVA treatment alleviates oxaliplatin-induced acute cold allodynia in rats via activation of the serotonergic system, especially spinal 5-HT3 receptors. The study designed well, the data is original, and the findings are of clinical significance. The data is compatible with the authors' claims. However, several suggestions are made as follows to improve the quality of the manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The method deployed to assess the cold allodynia signs need to be specified the source, please reference or state it as a standard procedure.
2. The Elisa assay is the important technique deployed in this study. The author should supply the detection sensitivity, specificity and the catalogue number of the Elisa assay kit.
3. To make the results convincing, the authors should claim replication times of experiments.
4. The current references are too old and low quality.

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Spelling and typo errors, such as P<0.05, the letter P should be italic.
2. The keywords should be provided in alphabetical order.

Discretionary Revisions
1. Limitations of the study were not mentioned in this paper. But it would be directory for the next step exploration. It would be fine if the author add it in this paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have on competing interests.