Author’s response to reviews

Title: Treatments of pelvic girdle pain in pregnant women: adverse effects of standard treatment, acupuncture and stabilising exercises on the pregnancy, mother, delivery and the fetus/neonate

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Author’s response to reviews:

Gothenburg June 25th 2008

Re: “Treatments of pelvic girdle pain in pregnant women: adverse effects of standard treatment, acupuncture and stabilising exercises on the pregnancy, mother, delivery and the fetus/neonate” MS:1574314917755560

We are delighted that BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine will publish our manuscript. We have made the suggested changes to the format of our manuscript and please find our point by point reply below together with the revised MS.

Title page - Please correct the order of the contents on the title page. This should contain, in the following order: Title, Author list, Affiliations, Corresponding author, Email addresses.

Please remove the horizontal line from the title page

This has been corrected.

Title - Please remove the full stop from the end of the title. Please ensure this is identical in both the manuscript and submission system.
This has been corrected.

Author list - The list of authors in the manuscript should be written exactly as they are in the submission system. The authors (forename, initial (if any), surname) should be written identically and in the order in which they are listed in the submission system. Currently in the submission system shows ‘Monika Fagevik-Olsen’, but in your manuscript shows ‘Monika Fagevik Olsen’.

This has been corrected.

Affiliation 1 - Please remove the telephone and fax numbers, as this does not need to be made available with your published manuscript.

This has been corrected.

Affiliation 3 - Each affiliation should be written in full, in the following format: department, institute, city, and country. Please include the city in the affiliation 3

This has been corrected.

DISCUSSION -> Discussion

Abbreviations - Because the abbreviations CTG, LBP and PGP are mentioned in many places throughout your manuscript, please may we recommend that an Abbreviations section is added in your manuscript in a position after the Conclusions, before the Competing interests. Please use a comma and a semi-colon to separate each abbreviation as per the following example:

CTG, cardiotocography; LBP, low back pain; PGP, Pelvic girdle pain.

This has been corrected as follows: ACU, acupuncture plus standard treatment; BL, bladder channel; CTG, cardiotocography; GB, gall bladder channel; KI, kidney channel; LBP, Low back pain; LI, large intestine channel; MBR, medical birth register; PGP, pelvic girdle pain; S, standard treatment; SE, stabilizing exercises plus standard treatment; ST, stomach channel; GV, governor vessel channel.

Competing interests - If there are none to declare, please write:
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

This has been done.

Authors' contributions - Please remove the space in the initials, for example, 'HE initiated and coordinated the study' not 'H E initiated and coordinated the study' and 'MF-O assisted in study design' not 'M F-O assisted in study design' and so on.

This has been done.

References - The reference list should be formatted in the journal's style to enable us to create links to article abstracts on PubMed. Please pay particular attention to the journal name, ensuring that you use the correct Medline abbreviation.

This has been done.

Currently Ref 3 does not use the correct Medline abbreviation, for example, 'European Spine Journal' should read 'Eur Spine J' - please also provide full details for Ref 3, for example, '2008, 17(6):794-819.' not the '[E pub ahead of print] 2008.'

This has been corrected.

Currently Ref 56 does not use the correction Medline abbreviations and the last page number is missing, for example, 'Journal of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation 2002(9):158.' Should read 'J Soc Gynecol Investig 2002, 9(3):158-162.'

This has been corrected.

Extracted references - Currently, there are 51 extracted references, but there are 61 references in the manuscript file. Please ensure that the data in your Endnote Reference software is entered correctly. This is to ensure that the references are displayed correctly. Please ensure that the extracted references match the references in the manuscript. The extracted references will be provided in the 'upload' box in the submission system. You will notice a link to the extracted references in the same box that the manuscript file is uploaded. For more
There are problems with the extracted references that I cannot correct. The data in my Endnote Reference software (ENDNOTE version 9) is entered correctly but reference 43-51 in the MS is not extracted. Could you please help me with this?

Figure legends - Please add a 'Figure legends' section heading on page 27 immediately before the text 'Figure 1 Flow-chart of the study'.

This has been done.

Tables - Tables must be divided into cells. Tables generated with tabbed/spaced text are not acceptable. Please do not use hard returns to align or separate text within the table cells - this is to ensure that the data in the tables display correctly in the final full text and the final PDF, for example, see Table 1 (row two, column two), Table 4 (row six, column four), Table 5 (whole body of the table), Table 8 (whole of row four).

I believe that we have corrected the tables as you have suggested. Tables are not double-spaced now and they are divided into cells. Can you please let me know if I have misunderstood your instructions so that I can change them correctly.

Table title - Please remove the full stop from the end of the table title in all eight Tables.

This has been corrected.

Column headings - Please use sentence case (i.e. remove all unnecessary capitals) in all table column headings. For example, 'Outcome' not 'OUTCOME' and 'Adverse events' not 'ADVERSE EVENTS' and so on.

This has been corrected.

Table 4 - Please may we recommend that you put the 'n=130', 'n=125' and 'n=131' in parentheses. Please do the same in Tables 5-8.

This has been corrected.
Tables 1 and 5 - Please may we recommend that the abbreviations are written consistently with the use of a comma (instead of the equal signs) and a semi-colon to separate each abbreviation, for example in Table 5, you would change:

S= Standard treatment; ACU= Acupuncture plus standard treatment; SE= Stabilizing Exercises plus standard treatment.,

NS= Not significant.

to

S, standard treatment; ACU, acupuncture plus standard treatment; SE, stabilizing exercises plus standard treatment; NS, not significant.

This has been corrected.

Page 16 - We notice that the close parenthesis is missing, please see '(i.e. somatic segments according to the innervation of the uterus, (th 12-L2, S2-S3) [18] they were stimulated to de qi 3 times during 30 minutes and, acupuncture points were used that have been stated by others [19, 20, 61] to be avoided during pregnancy (Large Intestine 4, Bladder 31 and 33)'.

This has been corrected as follows: We used 17 needles, 10 of them were located in the lumbosacral region (i.e. somatic segments according to the innervation of the uterus that is, Th 12-L2, S2-S3) [18]. They were stimulated to de qi 3 times during 30 minutes and, acupuncture points were used that have been stated by others [19, 20] to be avoided during pregnancy (LI 4, BL 31 and 33).

Page 5 - We notice that the word 'i.e.' is written twice in one sentence, please see '...(i.e. somatic segments according to the innervation of the uterus i.e. Th 10-L2, S2-S4)...'. Would it be better that the first 'i.e.' be written as 'for example,' and the second 'i.e.' be written as 'that is,' or vice versa?

This has been corrected as follows: Firstly, it is considered contraindicated to puncture points in the lumbosacral region that is, somatic segments according to the innervation of the uterus for example Th 10-L2, S2-S4) [18] or to stimulate strongly in pregnancy, as it may induce preterm labor [19, 20].
Page 6 - We noticed that the word ‘i.e. is written twice next to each other, please see ‘...i.e. i.e. time- and weight bearing related pain, pain-free intervals with...’. Is this a typing error?

Yes, this was a typing error and it has been corrected.

The MS has been read and approved by all the authors and the requirements for authorship have been met. We now hope that you find the MS in order for publication in BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

Best Regards,

Dr Helen Elden

Primary author

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