Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of pelvic girdle pain with acupuncture: adverse effects during pregnancy and delivery.

Version: 2 Date: 25 March 2008

Reviewer: Irene Lund

Reviewer’s report:

1. Perhaps the title should be corrected in order to more thoroughly reflect the content of the report such that even stabilizing exercises and standard treatment beside acupuncture was evaluated and furthermore that the status of the fetus was studied.

2. The content of the background section could perhaps be condensed by for instance moving the sentences regarding the CTG technique to the method section?

3. Please clarify the aim of the study regarding for instance the types of interventions that were delivered.

4. Please clarify what is meant by segmental and extrasegmental acupuncture points. Furthermore, is it possible to comment the rational of the numbers of used segmental and extrasegmental points (10 segmental and 7 extrasegmental)?

5. If possible, explain the differences between the exercises instructed in the treatment strategy and those meant to be stabilizing exercises since in the present text they are both described as exerting low load on pelvic structures.

6. Is it possible to more specific about what is meant by adverse events in the method section?

7. Please clarify what is meant by stating that means and SD of the data was calculated when possible.

8. Table 2. In the text this table is referred to being baseline data. Could it however, be a mix between baseline data and outcome deliveries? If so omit the information of mean maternal age and frequency of primipara from the table and report this in the text. The p-values of these two variables should not be reported since they were not stated to be tested. The function of the randomization procedure is to arrange that there will be no differences between the groups. Perhaps also the information of non significant results could be omitted from the table and just reported very shortly in the text.

9. Please give the rational why only the acupuncture treated women and their fetuses were evaluated with CTG.
10. The differences between the groups shown in table 5 is very interesting but is the testing between the groups associated with the aim of the study and does? Furthermore, are the mothers experience associated with the outcome of the adverse events of the different treatments?

11. Table 7 and 8. See earlier recommendation of just shortly reporting of non significant and significant results and in the text i.e. omit the columns of p-value.

12. Please summarize the results of the three different treatment strategies more condensed in the initial part of the discussion section.

13. The section of the ctg recordings could be comprised by omitting the comments of possible mechanism of needle stimulation of the autonomic nervous system function since the recordings that are referred to were performed on non pregnant women.

14. In the clinical comments please: omit the first and the last sentence, also comment the results of the other interventions beside acupuncture as well.

15. Conclusions – based on earlier comments, should not the other treatment strategies be mentioned at all?