Reviewer's report

Title: How large are the non-specific effects of acupuncture? A meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials

Version: 2 Date: 12 October 2010

Reviewer: Jaime Peters

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Minor Essential revisions
As the authors state in their response, the focus has now moved to sham vs placebo comparisons. I don't know this area of application, but are there likely to be 2-arm RCTs on sham vs placebo? One would imagine these would also be included now that your main focus has changed. If these are not to be included, you should say why and whether you think the exclusion of these 2-arm RCTs would impact on the results you have.

In "Meta-analysis of non-specific effects", at end of second sentence:
"missed statistical significance (p=0.08)"
State that you mean statistical significance at the 5% level.

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 no competing interests