Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of Acupuncture Intervention for Neck Pain Caused by Cervical Spondylosis: Study Protocol for a Randomized Controlled Trial

Version: 2 Date: 6 April 2013

Reviewer: Zhaohui Liang

Reviewer's report:

The revised manuscript is improved compared to the first one, but some revisions are needed before its final decision for publishing.

1. The authors shall provide a proof that they have a licensed SAS, for example, the license number, or they can use other software with legal access.

2. On page 5-6, the authors mentioned that “all participants will receive 25mg diclofenac sodium three times a day if their visual analogue scale (VAS) scores are exceeded 5”, these extra use of medication will produce confounding influence to the baseline data, thus a corresponding analysis method is needed to present in statistical analysis section.

3. On page 7, the authors state the “intent-to-treat” strategy will be applied in data analysis, but nothing in detail was described afterwards. Thus they should at least explain what their ITT will be performed in their analysis.

4. On page 8, the discussion section is too simple. I think the author should explain the novelty of their protocol. And on page 6, the rationale of sham acupuncture should be explained in this section or in the discussion section.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.