Reviewer's report

Title: Auricular acupuncture for primary care treatment of low back pain and posterior pelvic pain in pregnancy: study protocol for a multicentre randomised placebo-controlled trial

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Reviewer: Seung-Nam Kim

Reviewer's report:

In this study, Jorge Vas et al. designed study protocol for a multicenter randomized placebo-controlled trial. This study protocol is investigating the beneficial effects of auricular acupuncture for a primary care treatment of low back pain and pelvic pain in pregnancy women.

This is a well written manuscript with clinically important ideas and experiment good designed, the results would provide great evidence of auricular acupuncture as a treatment for pregnancy women with low back pain and pelvic pain.

However, additional point for placebo control would improve the quality of the study.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. There are two kinds of control treatment method for acupuncture study: verum acupuncture at non-specific point, including non-disease target and non-acupuncture point, and placebo (non-penetrating) acupuncture.

This study have both of control groups, nonspecific point and placebo acupuncture. However, it is still questionable by this study how effective if placebo acupuncture treatment administered at the specific points.

Therefore, another placebo acupuncture group should be considered to take same acupuncture points VA Ac group taken. Or authors should explain why this study takes non-specific points for placebo acupuncture.

Minor Essential Revisions

no

Discretionary Revisions

no

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interest.