Reviewer's report

Title: Baclofen for stroke patients with persistent hiccups: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2014

Reviewer: Qinhong Zhang

Reviewer's report:

The paper is original, clearly written and it provides important information on treatment of patients in persistent hiccups after stroke. Methods are well described and statistical analysis is appropriate. Discussion and conclusions are adequately supported by the reported data. The limits and strengths of the paper are well highlighted in the discussion. The paper is acceptable for publication; however it has several grammatical errors that need to be corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions:

Abstract (Methods)
Study medication was administered immediately after randomization and then three times daily for 5 days. >> administered should be revised as administrated.

Methods
Inclusion and exclusion criteria
Exclusion criteria included: persistent hiccups mainly associated with cancer or other unclear mechanisms; Rejection of baclofen therapy; and failed to accept the completion of clinical treatment. >> Rejection should be revised as rejection.

Intervention
Participants recruited to the baclofen group received 10 mg there times daily at the beginning and it was continued for 5 days. Participants assigned to the placebo group received 10 mg there times daily for 5 days. >> there should be revised as three.

Results
Paragraph 1: One hundred and eleven patients initially entered the study. >> eleven should be revised as thirteen.

Paragraph 2:
No patient in the baclofen group had no any amelioration relieved in the symptom of persistent hiccups compared with eight in placebo group (RR, 0.06, 95% CI 0.00-0.94, p=0.04). >> patient should be revised as patients.

Discussion
Our results suggest baclofen 10 mg three times daily was an acceptable dose and concur with findings by Mirijello [13]. >> this sentence should be revised as
“Our results suggest that baclofen 10 mg three times daily was an acceptable dose and concur with findings by Mirijello [13]. ”

**Level of interest:** An article of importance 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 interests.