Reviewer's report

Title: Channel and acupoint specificity on acupuncture regulation of hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal cortex axis function

Version: 2
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Reviewer: Stephanie Tjen-A-Looi

Reviewer's report:

There are few major concerns although the findings are interesting. Level of evoked activity in the PVN with 30 seconds stimulation of various acupoints does not represent the effects of EA. The plasma level of corticosterone and expression of GR and CRH as well as the behavioral studies are based on 6 repetitive EA of 30 min sessions.

To examine EA sensitivity of PVN neurons the baseline activity or stress evoked activity should be evaluated before, during and after 30 min of EA. Conclusion stated on page 17, last sentence, second paragraph therefore is not relevant.

Group data of the evoked activities are missing and a figure displaying the peristimulus histograms to compare the differential convergence acquired with stimulation at different acupoints are necessary.

Baseline activity (Spikes/s) should be reported.

Minor concerns:
Page 12, please clarify >75%
Please label the y-axis of the last figures.
Please simplify and describe the channel theory to better match the neurophysiological responses.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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.