Reviewer's report

Title: Acupuncture at homotopic acupoints exerts dual effects on bladder motility in anesthetized rats

Version: 5 Date: 22 June 2015

Reviewer: Jiang-Ti Kong

Reviewer's report:

Overall thank you for addressing all of my concerns. I am satisfied with your answers. However, I do think that you bring the same degree of clarity into your manuscript re: bladder state changes in your study and how your study differs from ref #42.

See below for the suggested changes. I think that it is critical you incorporate these changes into your manuscript because without these explanations, your methodology/concept would not be straightforward to an average reader of eCAM, who does not have a large fund of knowledge on bladder motility or bladder acpx.

1. In the section of "Bladder Pressure Recording" within Methods, insert right before the second to the last sentence:

"At around 100 mmH2O, the bladder in an anesthetized rat switches automatically between active and static state, with each state lasting approximately ??? minutes."

The modify the second to last sentence to:

"Thirty minutes after recording a stable intravesical pressure (at either the active or static state), we performed acupuncture stimulation that lasted 1 minute long, on different acupoints in random order."

2. Revise the last sentence under "Discussion" to the following:

"We note that the results of our study differ from a similar prior study by Morrison et al [42] on heterotopic stimulation. In our study, stimulation of the heteropic point BL-23 produced no effect on bladder contractility when the bladder is active but lead to excitatory effect when the bladder is static. In contrast, Morrison et al found stimulating a heterotopic point around the tibial nerve produced no effect when the bladder pressure is low (static state), and lead to both excitatory and inhibitory effects when the bladder pressure is high (active state). The difference between our study and that by Morrison et al could be explained by differences in the degree of artificial bladder extension, the location of the point stimulated, and the mode of stimulation."

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