Author's response to reviews

Title: Efficacy of Acupuncture and Electroacupuncture in Patients With Chronic Nonspecific Low Back Pain: Randomized Clinical Trial

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Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2015

Author's response to reviews: see over
Title: “Efficacy of Acupuncture and Electroacupuncture in patients with nonspecific low back pain: protocol of a randomized clinical trial”

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Editor
Trials

Regarding the paper we had submitted to Trials, “Efficacy of Acupuncture and Electroacupuncture in patients with nonspecific low back pain: protocol of a randomized clinical trial”, we sincerely thank the suggestions put forward, as they neatly contributed to improving our study.
Please find enclosed the article final version, changed in accordance to the suggestions made, as well as letters containing our replies.

All of the incorporated changes have been this revised version of the manuscript and this is a re-submission.

While waiting for the journal new assessment of our work, we remain.

Yours sincerely,

Author
Trials

Object: MS: 1138246442173028 - Efficacy of Acupuncture and Electroacupuncture in patients with nonspecific low back pain: protocol of a randomized clinical trial

Thank you for consideration of our manuscript for publication in your journal. We have reviewed the above manuscript according to your reviewer’s comments.

Editorial requests

1. **Title:** Please ensure the title conforms to journal style for study protocol articles. The title should follow the format. Study protocol for a randomized controlled trial? Please note that the title in the submission system should match the title of your manuscript.

2. **Abstract:** Please remove the Conclusion from your Abstract, as this section is not suitable for a study protocol article.

   Please include the date of registration with the trial registration number at the end of the Abstract.

   Please include a list of abbreviations used and their meanings, after the Trial Status.

R: The title of the article was changed as the user indicates. The title of the article was changed as the user indicates. Any suggestions were made in the text and of standardized form writing as recorded Clinicaltrials.gov.
Reviewer: Nithima Purepong

**Editor requests**

1. Should be more concise and provide detail on the acupuncture treatment methods in abstract. Line 8 this study is not a placebo-controlled trial, please recheck and commence. I don’t think the mechanism of electroacupuncture and acupuncture can be drawn from this study design, please rewrite.
   
   **R:** The abstract was reviewed and modified

2. The authors should give the rationale on the differences between the two treatment techniques. How the electroacupuncture work and what does is the benefit of this technique in terms of clinical aspect?
   
   **R:** The text was reviewed and modified

3. The authors’ aim was to investigate the difference between the two treatment techniques but did not provide sufficient details for the two treatment methods. Neither the advantage /benefit of the two techniques used were given. For acupuncture, it is important to provide technique details as much as possible since slight variation of methods can lead to different outcome. Please report the acupuncture protocol according to the STRICTA guideline (MacPherson et al, 2010).
   
   **R:** The text was reviewed and modified

4. How can you ensure your acupuncture treatment is a standard regimen and effective for non-specific low back pain?
   
   **R:** The acupuncture approach is recommended by guidelines for patients with chronic nonspecific low back pain.

**References:**


ORGANIZATION WH. Acupuncture: Review and analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials. WHO. 200.

5. I don’t understand your sample size calculation for 15 subjects using relative gain. Please explain and give the reference you cited
Actually it was a typo and the information was corrected in the text.

6. You conducted the three-month follow up repeated measures. Should the change within group overtime be conducted and reported?
R: This provided an intragroup analysis and between groups.

7. In the first paragraph, the result should provide more than the “understanding”, please provide more specific explanation to answer your research question. Please indicate/mention the limitation of your study if any.
R: More information to provide more specific explanation to answer the research was provided. Moreover, limitation of the study was provided.

8. Overall: Please use the English editing service for your manuscript. There is no information for figure 2.
R: We provided the English review of the manuscript.