Reviewer’s report

Title: Efficacy of acupuncture versus sham acupuncture for postprandial distress syndrome: study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 09 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Emily Peckham

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for submitting this protocol of an RCT of acupuncture for PDS. There are a few amendments that need to be made before it can be published.

Page 8 line 18-20 a brief description of where the sham acupuncture control has been used successfully before should be given.

Please include some information on how the primary outcome 'elimination of the three cardinal symptoms will be assessed'.

SPIRIT checklist

A statement about participant confidentiality needs to be included in the main body of the article. There is a statement on page 12 line 9-12 'The private information of patients....' however further clarification is needed as to what is meant by this statement.

Please include some information on item 5d in the main body of the text. 'Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if applicable (information on data management has already been included in the main body of the text).

Although page numbers were given for the following items on the SPIRIT checklist I was unable to find details of the items on the page numbers listed. 11b, 17b, 18b, Item Please can details of these items be added and the page numbers be updated in the SPIRIT diagram.

A '-' is given for item 6b on the SPIRIT checklist, however this information does seem to be included in the article. Please can you add the relevant page number.
There are some sentences where the English needs to be corrected. I have given some examples below however this is not exhaustive so please ensure that the entire article has been proof read and any errors in the English corrected.

Page 6 line 20 '...who is not involved in the implement and statistical analysis of trial.' should read 'implementation' not 'implement'

Page 6 line 45 should be 3 years not 3 year.

Page 6 line 48 -53 needs rewording

Page 8 lines 13-18 sentence beginning 'and this study will exclude...' needs rewording

Page 9 lines 12-42. The English in this paragraph needs to be corrected.

Page 12 line 28-31 the word field could be removed.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Quality of figures

All images and figures within the manuscript should be genuine i.e. without evidence of manipulation. No specific feature within an image may be enhanced, obscured, moved, removed, or introduced. If you have concerns about the veracity of the figures you should choose the first option below.

Statistical review

Is it essential that this manuscript is seen by an expert statistician? If so, please give your reasons in your report.
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