Author’s response to reviews

Title: Different kinds of acupuncture treatments for knee osteoarthritis: a multicentre, randomized controlled trial

Authors:

Qifei zhang (157801345@qq.com)
Jianqiao Fang (fangjianqiao7532@163.com)
Lifang Chen (clf@163.com)
Jiayao Wu (376110168@qq.com)
Jing Ni (1119538140@qq.com)
Fang Liu (bihaiyuxiao@126.com)
Jing Sun (sunjing0268@163.com)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Riaz Qureshi,

Thank you very much for your hard-work in processing our manuscript entitled “Different kinds of acupuncture treatments for knee osteoarthritis: a multicentre, randomized controlled trial” (Manuscript ID: TRLS-D-19-00877R1). Thanks so much for your patience and giving me another chance which is so important to me relating to my graduation. We are so appreciated that your comments are valuable and very helpful for revising and improving the manuscript. The formula has been recreated which is now clearer according to the comments of reviewers on Page13 of the manuscript. Moreover, language editing and improvements in English has been made by Springer nature Author service. I hope this revised manuscript will meet you and reviewers’ approval. Below you will find our point-by-point responses to the reviewers’ comments. Thanks for the attention of reviewers and editors to this manuscript and I would like to appreciate their detailed and professional advices again and again.
RESPONSE TO REVIEWER’S COMMENTS

Manuscript ID: TRLS-D-19-00877R1, Title: Different kinds of acupuncture treatments for knee osteoarthritis: a multicentre, randomized controlled trial

Author: Qifei Zhang, Jianqiao Fang, Lifang Chen, Jiayao Wu, Jing Ni, Fang Liu, Jing Sun.

Thank reviewers for those constructive suggestions and comments. Our responses are below:

Q1-1. About Randomization

Response: Thanks for your careful comments. We are so sorry that we cannot made our randomization scheme very clear for all the statistic part are in charged by the Evaluation and Analysis Centre of Zhejiang Provincial Hospital of TCM. Our randomization scheme is based on interactive web response system considering each center as a stratification factor. The block randomization of central randomization method is adopted to control the distribution of the random scheme, so that each center can compete to join each group of the trial, avoiding the delay caused by different progress of each center, effectively shortening the test period and ensuring the equilibrium of each group of the trial. Thank you.

Q1-2. About the blurry formula

Response: Thanks for your patience and careful comments. The blurry formula on Page 13 has been recreated and it looks much clearer now.

Thank you.

All changes are marked in blue in the revised manuscript. Papers relating to the background and references as supplementary files have been removed. We hope it will be a much better one and we are looking forward to hearing good news from you as soon as possible. Thank you!