

March 26, 2015

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your time and efforts. We are grateful for your and the reviewers' comments and feedback on our manuscript. According to the comments, we have finished revisions and polished the manuscript with a suggested supplier of editing services – **American Journal Experts**. The main amendments have been highlighted **in red** in the revised manuscript. We hope that the revised version is acceptable for publication in your journal.

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format (file name: 16388-review.doc).

Title: Acupuncture and Regulation of Gastrointestinal Function

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Name of Journal: *World Journal of Gastroenterology*

ESPS Manuscript NO: 16388

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of reviewers:

1 Format has been updated

2 Revision has been made according to the suggestions of the reviewer

(1) In abstract, the innovative and significant points related to results and conclusions supported by the literature should be presented definitely.

Response: Thanks for your very careful review of our paper. According to your comments, we have revised the abstract carefully, and the innovative and significant points related to results and conclusions have been presented definitely.

(2) Acupuncture regulating the gastrointestinal function involves the effects of multi-factor and multi-path. Please explain why only describe the modulation of acupuncture on GI motility, visceral sensitivity, GI mucosal defense, and the brain–gut axis in introduction.

Response: As you mentioned, acupuncture regulating the gastrointestinal function involves the effects of multi-factor and multi-path such as GI motility, immunity, secretion, blood

flow, visceral sensitivity, and the brain–gut axis. According to researching for articles cited in pubmed, it is found that large numbers and high quality of studies focused on the modulation of acupuncture on GI motility, GI barrier, visceral sensitivity and the brain-gut axis. However the effects on gastrointestinal secretion, immunity and blood flow were only mentioned in a small part of studies. Therefore, the regulatory effects of acupuncture on gastrointestinal secretion, immunity, blood flow were simply described in references [22], [61], [67], [78].

(3) It's better to indicate that the below are reported in which year.

“Gastrointestinal (GI) diseases represent a huge burden to society, and are reported to affect an estimated 60 to 70 million US citizens annually and cost approximately \$142 billion (direct + indirect costs) [6].”

Response: Regarding to your suggestions. We have indicated that the context of this cited reference was reported in the year of 2004, which has been added in article.

(4) The cited references should indicate they were researched in animal or in people. For example: When EA was applied at ST-36, the expression of NOS1 increased, while the expression of NOS2 and NOS3 decreased, which played a role in the protection of the gastric mucous [57]. Further, evidence has been presented that the orexigenic peptides including ghrelin and neuropeptide Y (NPY) could be down-regulated by EA and could stimulate decreased food intake [83].

Response: Thank you for pointing it out. The cited references you mentioned have been indicated they were researched in rats. Then I read this article carefully and added the subjects investigated in references [33-35].

(5) The part of conclusion should be extended and fully discussed. What are the novel findings about acupuncture and regulation of gastrointestinal function through your research?

Response: Thank you for your advice. The part of conclusion has been carefully revised according to your comments and the novel findings have been presented definitely in conclusion.

(6) Add some description of the therapeutic effects and underlying mechanisms of acupuncture on ischemia/inflammatory-induced GI barrier injury and remote organ dysfunction.

Response: According to your suggestions, we have added references [62]-[68] to describe the therapeutic effects and underlying mechanisms of acupuncture on ischemic/inflammatory-induced GI barrier injury and remote organ dysfunction. In addition, considering the protective effects of GI mucosa as a barrier, we changed point title “Acupuncture and the Protection of GI mucosa” to “Modulation of Acupuncture on GI barrier function”, which was in accordance with the main idea “acupuncture and regulation of GI function”.

(7) Replenish some new references published in 2013-2015, such as

Du MH, Lu HM, Hu S, LvY, Lin ZL, Ma L. Electroacupuncture improves gut barrier dysfunction in prolonged hemorrhagic shock rats through vagus anti-inflammatory mechanism. *World J Gastroenterol*,2013,19(36):5988-5999

Hu S, Zhao ZK, Liu R, Wang HB, Gu CY, Luo HM, Wang H, Du MH, Lv Y1, Shi X1. Electroacupuncture activates enteric glial cells and protects the gut barrier in hemorrhaged rats. *World J Gastroenterol*,2015,21(5):1468-78.

Du MH, Luo HM, Tian YJ, Zhang LJ, Zhao ZK, Lv Y, Xu RJ, Hu S.

Electroacupuncture ST36 prevents postoperative intra-abdominal adhesions formation. *J Surg Res*,2014 Dec 31 [Epub ahead of print]

Response: With consideration of your suggestions, we have added several new references including which you mentioned.

(8) The language and grammar needs further revising or polishing.

Response: Thank you for your advice. We have revised the whole manuscript carefully and tried to avoid any grammar or syntax error. In addition, we have polished the manuscript with editing services – American Journal Experts.

3 References and typesetting were corrected

Thank you again for publishing our manuscript in the *World Journal of Gastroenterology*.

Sincerely yours,



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