



PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 70742

Title: Different methods of acupuncture for relief of pain due to liver cancer: A network meta-analysis

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05225141

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DVM, PhD

Professional title: MD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-12

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-12 21:59

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-14 23:57

Review time: 2 Days and 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This network meta-analysis analyzed the function of different acupuncture methods in releasing the pain of liver cancer. The topic is fine, and the search strategies and analysis methods are good. However, there are some concerns about the manuscript. Firstly, the authors described that Tianying acupoint acupuncture may be the most effective measure in the Results; but in the Abstract, 'triple puncture and remaining needle acupuncture had a relatively high effective rate'; finally, a third different conclusion was made 'In this study we found that acupuncture with the three step analgesic ladder method had the highest effectiveness.' From abstract to results, then to conclusion, the authors concluded three different best conclusions. Secondly, although the initial number of finding studies (n= 5889) is very high, more than half of them are duplicated, only 8 randomized controlled clinical trials (RCTs) are selected. The number is relatively small. In the Results, 8 RCTs with a total of 734 patients, while in Discussion, 14 RCTs with a total of 1152 patients. A plagiarism check is needed. Such as the sentence of 'In serious cancer pain, morphine and other major analgesics have been commonly administrated for clinical treatments, and their effects were accurate, while with high incidence of side effects,such as nausea, vomiting, constipation, and other conditions.' and the sentences of 'Acupuncture may be useful in controlling the pain experienced by many cancer patients. It is a complementary and conservative therapy that balances the flow of vital energy, and in turn helps to relieve pain. It is an analgesic adjunctive method for cancer patients that is worthy of additional high quality studies'. Minors: 1. A space is required after punctuation (many similar issues), such as the article;Jing Chen; Corresponding author:Zuo-Yun Chen, Chief Doctor, Department ofTraditional; due to



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7041 Koll Center Parkway, Suite
160, Pleasanton, CA 94566, USA
Telephone: +1-925-399-1568
E-mail: bpgoffice@wjgnet.com
https://www.wjgnet.com

livercancer; March31, 2021, etc. Please check across the manuscript. 2. Grammar checks: the three step analgesic ladder therapy > three-step; the quality of their life > lives; identify a best method of acupuncture > a better method or the best method; the early screening and treatment of liver cancer has > have; effects plays an important role > effects, and plays an important role; irrespective of ages and sex > age and sex or ages and sexes; the Cocharne hand book> Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions; in the review should met> meet; liver cancer.(Table2, Table3, Figure 3, Figure 4)> liver cancer (Table 2, Table 3, Figure 3, and Figure 4); RESULT>RESULTS; DISSCUSSION (wrong spelling)> DISCUSSION; 3. Full name for the abbreviation of RCT in the abstract; Similarly, on page 5, VAS score; In Table 3, SUCRA except in the abstract. 4. Cocharne hand book for systematic review of interventions (Version 5.1.0) [1q]: what is [1q]?



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Reviewer’s code: 03207532

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor

Professional title: MD

Reviewer’s Country/Territory: China

Author’s Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2021-08-12

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-13 12:05

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-19 03:13

Review time: 5 Days and 15 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No



Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Through network meta-analysis, this paper explored the difference in efficacy of different acupuncture therapies in the treatment of liver cancer pain. The research topic has certain clinical practicability and innovation. However, the quality of this paper is poor, and there are problems in language writing and methodology, so it is difficult to draw a reliable conclusion. The specific problems are as follows: 1. The number of literatures in each database should be indicated in Fig.1 Flow Chart. And the reasons for the preliminary screening of 369 papers should be noted. 2. In the abstract, shouldn't the purpose of the study be the difference in efficacy between different acupuncture treatments? What is the difference between acupuncture and other therapies? 3. Among the retrieved databases, PubMed includes Medline database. Web of Science database should be added. 4. With too few included literatures, there is little significance in making network meta-analysis, and it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions. 5. PRISMA, which is proprietary to network meta-analysis, should be used instead of 2009 PRISMA, which is used in regular Meta-analysis. 6. It is necessary to provide the method of consistency check, specific results and pictures. 7. In the previous summary and results section of the text, it was mentioned that there were 8 RCTs in this study, but there were 14 RCTs in the discussion. 8. The theory of Traditional Chinese medicine that is not easy to understand should be deleted, and the international code should be added to the acupuncture points. 9. There were only 4 acupuncture treatments in the study. Are there any other acupuncture treatments for liver cancer pain? 10. In addition, this paper lacks direct comparison of acupuncture therapy and only has indirect comparison of network meta.



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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06109979

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: Doctor

Professional title: MD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-08-13 09:30

Reviewer performed review: 2021-08-21 13:53

Review time: 8 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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https://www.wjgnet.com

Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Anonymous [<input type="checkbox"/>] Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: [<input type="checkbox"/>] Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No
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SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This manuscript is very novel and of High Quality. It is recommended for publication.



RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Meta-Analysis*

Manuscript NO: 70742

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Reviewer's code: 05225141

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: DVM, PhD

Professional title: MD

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United States

Author's Country/Territory: China

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Reviewer chosen by: Man Liu

Reviewer accepted review: 2021-10-18 15:43

Reviewer performed review: 2021-10-18 16:44

Review time: 1 Hour

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Peer-reviewer	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous



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statements

Conflicts-of-Interest: [] Yes [Y] No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The authors substantially revised the manuscript. The current version is acceptable unless the following minors should be revised. Minor changes: seriously affects the quality of their life > lives; March31, 2021 > March 31, 2021; and(Pain or Suffering or Ache)and(Acupuncture (space between the worlds); a third reviewerif necessary; should met the following; age and sex.(3); (Figure3, Figure4, Table2, Figure5, table3). similar issues checking across the manuscript; >three-step analgesic ladder therapy (14.1%); we found thattriple puncture; Wu hedge, etc.There is; Please check the close of each sentence and between words, a space is needed.