

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Clinical Cases*

**Manuscript NO:** 78765

**Title:** Effect of intradermal needle therapy at combined acupoints on patients' gastrointestinal function following surgery for gastrointestinal tumors

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 03724259

**Position:** Editor-in-Chief

**Academic degree:** MBBS, MD

**Professional title:** Additional Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** India

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-13

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-15 01:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-15 02:11

**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 Grade E: Do not publish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 type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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

The authors describe the effect of novel acupuncture technique on postoperative GI function recovery. The article is an interesting concepts but there are some concerns: 1. The language needs to be edited 2. ERAS protocol was followed in the patients in both groups. There are many components in preoperative period, intraoperative and postoperative period. The compliance of ERAS is always a concern and may affect the GI recovery. What was the compliance of ERAS protocols among the participants of both the groups with respect to various components. 3. who recorded " time to first flatus and stool passages and time to first oral feeding" and how frequently was this recorded to ensure consistency. 4. Was the outcome assessor blinded to the study group allocation 5. What was the preoperative fasting status of patients and did they receive any maltodextrins within 2-3 hours before anesthesia in both groups. Also what was the time when feeding was initiated in both the groups postoperatively 6. Please check the acceptable number of tables in guidelines and modify accordingly 7. Also a subgroup analysis of gastric vs colon cancer should be done

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06082801

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** China

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

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**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-21 10:25

**Review time:** 6 Days and 20 Hours

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

**Peer-reviewer  
statements**

Peer-Review: [ ☒ ] Anonymous [ ☐ ] Onymous

Conflicts-of-Interest: [ ☐ ] Yes [ ☒ ] No

## **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

This study is a clinical study, which mainly discussed the intradermal needle therapy at combined acupoints on patients' gastrointestinal function following surgery for gastrointestinal tumors. this study found INT at the Yuan-source, Luo-connecting, and He-sea points in patients could decrease their time to first postoperative flatus passage, oral feeding, and defecation and alleviate their symptoms, including abdominal distension, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue 48 h and 72 h after surgery. The main problem is that most of the observed indicators are the patients' self-symptoms, the defecation time is also affected subjectively, the objective index is less, and the sample size is small.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 02446694

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** FACC, FACP, FAHA, FESC, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Director

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Japan

**Author's Country/Territory:** China

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**Review time:** 8 Days and 20 Hours

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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No



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

#1 Intradermal needle therapy (INT) was continued for 1 week, but is there anything on the control group? If there is at least no needle attached, is the patient aware of this? If patients can recognize these things, then the placebo effect cannot be ruled out and at least seems to be included in the study limitation. The authors should elaborate on the procedure, especially in the control group. #2 The authors should state whether there is a difference in treatment effect on GI function, GI symptoms in the INT and control groups between gastric cancer and other colon cancers. #3 Some of the tables are shown in the second decimal place. The authors should show them in meaningful decimals and whole numbers, as they are not clinically meaningful.