

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

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

**Manuscript NO:** 80518

**Title:** Surgery combined with antibiotics for thoracic vertebral infection infected by Escherichia coli after acupuncture: A case report

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

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06299654

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-09-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-09-30 15:14

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-30 15:27

**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 Grade E: Do not publish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 checked="" 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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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

Nice paper and unusual case scenario. Even if diagnosis and treatment were quite obvious, putative cause is rare and underreported. I think that the key message is that acupuncture could be kept in mind as source of infection. Obviously this is only a case report, but the note of caution regarding potential life threatening complication in healthy people of acupuncture could be meaningful

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05755618

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** FACP, MD

**Professional title:** Doctor

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

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

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**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-07 03:55

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-12 05:20

**Review time:** 5 Days and 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
Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	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**

It is a well-written article. However, there are some concerns about this article. 1. The authors could present the acupuncture methods and places in the figures for general readers. 2. The number of references is small and not updated. 3. The patient's HbA1c level is relatively high. Did the authors deny diabetes? 4. The authors have required core tips in the article. 5. The weakest point of this article is that there is no strong correlation between acupuncture and vertebral infection. The authors should explain the pathway of infection (e.g., through vessel). 5. The duration of antibiotic treatment before the operation seems very short.

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06059026

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MBBS, MD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-09-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-10-11 04:37

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-10-21 05:00

**Review time:** 10 Days

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 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 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 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

The authors have presented an interesting case. I suggest following changes to improve manuscript quality

1. The manuscript has been poorly written without much emphasis given on history proceeding presenting complaints, past relevant history etc.
2. English language polishing is required (grammar, style as well as spelling). The authors should consider taking english editing services from professional organisation
3. The authors could have added a table reviewing other similar case reports available in literature. Also if similar complication was reported among other patients going for acupuncture at the centre
4. Figure 3 does not clearly shows the growth of E.coli, rather it shows a mixture of Gram positive cocci and Gram negative bacilli
5. The manuscript can be cut short and presented as a letter to editor / commentary

## RE-REVIEW REPORT OF REVISED MANUSCRIPT

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**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 06059026

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MBBS, MD

**Professional title:** Assistant Professor

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

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

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-09-30

**Reviewer chosen by:** Yu-Lu Chen

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-11-05 05:51

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-11-05 06:00

**Review time:** 1 Hour

<b>Scientific quality</b>	<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
<b>Language quality</b>	<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
<b>Conclusion</b>	<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
<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input type="checkbox"/> Onymous Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

The manuscript looks much more informative and concise now. I noticed minor corrections like using short forms and starting bacterial genus name in with lower case letter. Rest looks good.