

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Diabetes*

Manuscript NO: 86907

Title: Acupuncture in diabetic peripheral neuropathy – neurological outcomes of the randomized ACUDPN trial

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 05114375

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: BMed

Professional title: Doctor, Technician

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Germany

Manuscript submission date: 2023-07-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-30 11:40

Reviewer performed review: 2023-07-30 14:53

Review time: 3 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
Creativity or innovation of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No creativity or innovation

Scientific significance of the conclusion in this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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 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 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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

After reviewing your manuscript, in my opinion, the Figure 2 of the manuscript is not clear enough in detail. I suggest that the time nodes for the two groups to receive the intervention and evaluate the outcome should be indicated in the flow chart.

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 07717220

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: China

Author's Country/Territory: Germany

Manuscript submission date: 2023-07-14

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu (Quit 2023)

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-07-31 23:50

Reviewer performed review: 2023-08-12 15:11

Review time: 11 Days and 15 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
Novelty of this manuscript	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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Re-review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Peer-reviewer statements	Peer-Review: <input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

I think this is a very meaningful article, and the research design is relatively rigorous. I have some suggestions for the author's reference

1. The reference format in the main text needs to be modified
2. Detailed reasons for patient being excluded during the initial screening process should be provided
3. A small sample size may limit the research results and statistical validity.
4. The outcome evaluator blind should be considered due to selectivity bias.
5. In theory, both ITT analysis and FAS analysis should be considered. I would like to know the reason why the author did not conduct ITT analysis.
6. It difficult to understand why the sample size calculation resulted in a data of 110 patients, while we only included 62 patients

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Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 02671671

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD

Professional title: Doctor

Reviewer's Country/Territory: Japan

Author's Country/Territory: Germany

Manuscript submission date: 2023-07-14

Reviewer chosen by: Geng-Long Liu (Quit 2023)

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-08-02 23:47

Reviewer performed review: 2023-08-12 22:30

Review time: 9 Days and 22 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
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No novelty
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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

SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

This study is not-blinded open study. The number of patients was small. However, this research has worth to publish.