

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: *World Journal of Psychiatry*

Manuscript NO: 84367

Title: Acupuncture at Back-Shu point improves insomnia by reducing inflammation and inhibiting the ERK/NF-κB signaling pathway

Provenance and peer review: Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

Peer-review model: Single blind

Reviewer's code: 06520100

Position: Peer Reviewer

Academic degree: MD, PhD

Professional title: Associate Professor, Research Associate, Researcher

Reviewer's Country/Territory: United Kingdom

Author's Country/Territory: China

Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-19 08:08

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-24 07:25

Review time: 4 Days and 23 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 Grade E: Do not publish
Novelty of this manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: No scientific significance
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 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

The general topic is of relevance, the data appears sound and the manuscript is very well-written. The novelty of this study is identification of the molecular mechanism of acupuncture at back-shu point in treating insomnia. The authors identified a regulatory mechanism that acupuncture at back-shu point can inhibit ERK/NF-κB signaling pathway and treat insomnia by increasing the release of inflammatory cytokines in the hippocampus. However, I have some comments, which should still be addressed: 1. Statistical tests should be indicated for each data set in the Figure legend. 2. The size of the font in the figure notes varies and should be unified. 3. Pictures should be marked with a scale bar.

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Manuscript submission date: 2023-04-14

Reviewer chosen by: AI Technique

Reviewer accepted review: 2023-04-17 02:29

Reviewer performed review: 2023-04-25 00:35

Review time: 7 Days and 22 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
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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: <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

In the present study, The authors analyze the mechanistic pathways of identification of the molecular mechanism of acupuncture at back-shu point in treating insomnia. It has been previously shown in other publications that acupuncture at back-shu point has an excellent therapeutic effect on insomnia, effectively improving depression, anxiety, memory loss, immunity decline and other clinical symptoms caused by insomnia. The authors therefore combine and extend the current knowledge about acupuncture in the treatment of insomnia, identifies that acupuncture at back-shu point can inhibit ERK/NF-κB signaling pathway and treat insomnia by increasing the release of inflammatory cytokines in the hippocampus. The authors use many different methods and animal models, the study is well conducted. However, some questions and points remain unanswered: The presentation of the data lacked clarity and aesthetics, and the abscissas of many graphs were missing. The description of the figure legend should be as detailed as possible to enable readers to have a clear understanding of the results. The author can add graphical summaries to make the presentation of the results clearer. I recommend that the manuscript can be published after polishing the English.