

Peer Review File

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Reviewer A

This manuscript describes the current evidence status and challenges of acupuncture for neck pain.

Thank you for your time to review our manuscript.

This manuscript is generally well written. But I have doubts as to whether this manuscript has any publication value.

Thank you for your positive comments. We improved the manuscript as requested. Please see the specific changes following your comments below.

The evidence investigated in this manuscript has not been comprehensively or detailed, and it is believed that the description of the challenges is lacking.

Thank you for your comment. We extensively revised the main text to provide a better description of the evidence and challenges in this research topic.

This manuscript does not present us with any new findings, and the potential of acupuncture for musculoskeletal pain is not new.

Thank you for your comment. We revised the manuscript to point out the main perspectives for research on the field.

Reviewer B

This article is rather difficult to evaluate as it is neither a primary study nor a secondary study such as systematic review/meta-analysis. If it's an editorial, there is no information on which study it is commenting on.

Thank you for your comment. This was in fact an invited Editorial about a trending topic in traditional medicine. We revised the main text to make clear this aspect.

This article does not seem to inform readers anything new or in-depth discussion on acupuncture for neck pain management. It is not assuring the value of acupuncture treatment in the neck pain management, which would have been better if the authors did so at the beginning of the article. Table 1 is simply listing the acupuncture points used in the previous reports (included in the Cochrane systematic review which was unfortunately withdrawn). It does not give any useful information for example, regarding frequency (e.g., what points were most used), combination (e.g. what points were most frequently used together), type of neck pain and corresponding points used, or how frequently acupuncture treatment was given for how long.

Thank you for your constructive comment. We revised the manuscript to make explicit systematic review is currently withdrawn from the Cochrane library. Also, we highlighted this current lack of established efficacy as a major challenge in adopting acupuncture for management of neck pain. Information in Table 1 is intended to show readers about a major challenge in acupuncture intervention, namely the variability in prescriptions among studies, besides other variations in protocol as mentioned.

Therefore, even if it's an editorial, it's message is not clear and discussion appears only superficial.

Thank you for your comment. We extensively revised the main text to provide a better description of the evidence and challenges in this research topic.