

Peer Review File

Article information: <https://dx.doi.org/10.21037/jtd-23-409>

Reviewer A

Comment 1: What were the roles of PKA/PKC in the chronic cough symptoms induced by lung surgery? Please state in the introduction.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. PKA/PKC can activate the sensitivity of TRPV1 channel and increase the occurrence of cough.

Changes in the text: line 106

Comment 2: What were the correlations between TRPV1 signaling pathway and chronic cough symptoms? Please supplement in the introduction.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. The C-fiber nerve endings of the lung contain TRPV1, and various physical and chemical stimuli can activate TRPV1-induced cough

Changes in the text: line 80-82

Comment 3: The acupuncture was the crucial topic in the paper. What is the basic of acupuncture for chronic cough symptoms? Please state in the introduction.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. electroacupuncture in the lung meridian inhibited the expression and secretion of SP, CGRP and NKA and reduced the infiltration of inflammatory cells by reducing the expression of the p-PKA and p-PKC-activated TRPV1 gene by interfering with PEG2 and BK.

Changes in the text: line 393-396

Comment 4: It was advised to add related references (DOI: 10.21037/jtd.2018.03.165) IF: 3.005 Q3 about the chronic cough after lung surgery on clinical.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. Relevant literature has been cited.

Changes in the text: References 5.

Comment 5: Please check and the project license (No. AHUCM-mouse-2022059)? Why to choose guinea pigs? And how to identify the acupuncture point? Please state in the methods.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. Guinea pig is a kind of mouse. Because guinea pigs can better establish postoperative cough model. The acupuncture point sees References 23.

Changes in the text: "Grouping of experimental animals"

Comment 6: In the figure 3, please add the scale bar. And in the figure legends, please supplement the full-names of abbreviations.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. Figure 3 shows 200um. The figure legends have been modified.

Changes in the text: figure legends 3

Comment 7: In the figure 5, please mark the name of lane. And change the “Modle” into “Model”.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. Modified

Changes in the text: Figure 5-revised

Comment 8: What were the advantages of the treatment with acupuncture for chronic cough after lung surgery? Please supplement in the discussion.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. The causes of cough are diverse, and drug treatment may only be effective for a certain cough. However, acupuncture treatment of cough can be diversified. To add more choices for the treatment of cough. And provide a theoretical basis for acupuncture treatment of cough.

Changes in the text: line 334-335

Comment 9: First, the abstract needs some revisions. The background did not explain the differences between electronic acupuncture and acupuncture, which are two different treatments. The authors did not explain the clinical needs for this research focus and what the potential clinical implications of this research focus are. The methods need to describe how the five groups were assigned, the numbers of guinea pigs of the five groups, and the purposes of these experimental procedures. The results need to quantify the findings by reporting statistics such as cough frequency and cough latency of different groups and accurate P values. In the conclusion, the sentence “acupuncture may be an effective treatment of chronic cough after lung surgery” is overstated since this is only an animal study. The authors need to have more detailed Comments for the clinical implications of the findings. The authors should not use “acupuncture” and “electronic acupuncture” interchangeably in the whole paper since they are different.

Reply: Thank you for your positive feedback. Electroacupuncture is also a kind of acupuncture treatment. Therefore, the animal experiment in this article uses electroacupuncture to treat reference 23.

Reviewer B

1. Abstract

The abstract should within 200-350 words. **350 words is maximum, please revise.**

Reply: Modified, 344 words.

2. Reporting Checklist

This is the related information about item 4, not item 5, please revise. If blinding is not applicable, please fill item 5 with N/A.

Randomisation	4	a. State whether randomisation was used to allocate experimental units to control and treatment groups. If done, provide the method used to generate the randomisation sequence. b. Describe the strategy used to minimise potential confounders such as the order of treatments and measurements, or animal/cage location. If confounders were not controlled, state this explicitly.	2.3 Grouping of experimental animals 2.3 Grouping of experimental animals
Blinding	5	Describe who was aware of the group allocation at the different stages of the experiment (during the allocation, the conduct of the experiment, the outcome assessment, and the data analysis).	Random distribution by random number table method

Reply: Modified. See Reporting Checklist for details.

1. Figure 2, 4, and 5

Please explain EA in the legend.

Reply: EA = electroacupuncture.

2. Figure 6

Please explain EA and PCR in the legend.

Reply: EA = electroacupuncture, PCR = polymerase chain reaction.

3. Table S1

Please explain PCR in the table footnote.

Reply: PCR = polymerase chain reaction.

4. Table S3

Please explain all the abbreviations in the table footnote.

Reply: PGE2 = prostaglandin-E2, BK = bradykinin capsaicin, TRPV1 = transient receptor potential vanilloid-1, BALF = bronchoalveolar lavage fluid, ELISA = enzyme linked immunosorbent assays.