

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Acupuncture is a feasible treatment for post-thoracotomy pain: Results of a prospective pilot trial

**Version: 2 Date:** 17 February 2006

**Reviewer:** Jorge Dagnino

### Reviewer's report:

#### General

I wish to thank the authors for their kind reception of the commentaries made in the first report. Most doubts and issues have been dealt appropriately.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

Two issues subsist though:

1) Tolerability, as part of the definition of feasibility. I think that the last paragraph in p.10 and second in p.11 could be clarified as I found the need to repeatedly refer to the flow chart to understand these paragraphs.

The first line of the paragraph in p.10 should state "evaluable pain data".

The second and fifth lines of the last paragraph in p.10 should read "terminated" for "withdrawn" to be consistent with the used terminology. After that, of the four patients who opted to withdraw, the one who did not want to deal with needles after discharge should be counted as not tolerating the intervention. Thus, "tolerability" should be interpreted as 19 out of 26 patients (73%) in whom this aspect was evaluated and not 23 as stated.

2) Sample size calculation: mean BPI (2.7) was used but this does not correspond to any of the figures given in table 3.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

There is a minor error in table 3, in the percentage of analgesic use at 30 days. In table 3, what does "pain from operation mean?"

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No