Reviewer's report

**Title:** Effect of electroacupuncture in postanesthetic shivering during regional anesthesia: a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 3 **Date:** 25 September 2012

**Reviewer:** Wei-Zen Sun

**Reviewer's report:**

This prospective randomized placebo controlled study investigated the anti-shivering effect of bilateral electrical stimulation to ST36 (Zusanli) and ST37 (Shangjuxu) points for 30 min before spinal anesthesia. They found that the extent and incidence of postoperative shivering was much lower after acupuncture than placebo while other postoperative profiles, such as nausea, vomiting, hypotension, POCD were not different. They also found that intraoperative core temperature was less affected in acupuncture group. They hypothesized preoperative EA stimulation reduce shivering attack postoperatively presumably as a result of EA-induced temperature control.

The study is well designed and properly conducted. The results are clearly presented and thoroughly discussed. Few comments require further clarification:

1. The postoperative observation lacks the following parameters: pain intensity, intra- & postoperative morphine/analgesic consumption, PCA parameters. Please add the information and compare whether acupuncture has led to pain-related phenomenon and side effects.

2. Please explain why and how a current of 1 mA and a frequency of 3 Hz. At this current intensity, patients typically feel a slight but not uncomfortable twitching. The impact of EA parameters, such as intensity and frequency, has been debated for decades with variable outcome.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests