REPLY

Response to: “Electro-acupuncture effectiveness on labor pain management”

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We are very pleased to know that our fellow colleague had interesting point [1] of view on the article [2] “Effects of electro-acupuncture on labor pain management”.

The comment is given as follows:

1. Acupuncture technique is different from electro-acupuncture method. It focuses on palpation of acupoints, as the fine needles are needed to be inserted into the acupoints to exert therapeutic effects. However, in our article we used transcutaneous electrical acupoint stimulation machine (HANS-100B), which has electrode pads attached onto skins that covered the area containing the therapeutic acupoints. Hence, we used the unit centimeters to identify the area not the specific points; same methodology was used in Chao et al.’s research [3] and many others.
2. EX-B2 acupoints are located lateral to the posterior midline from T1 to L5, with 17 points on each side. In our article we did not intend to explain what is EX-B2 acupoints; we intended to indicate what EX-B2 acupoints were used, which was strictly guided by HANS-100B manual in terms of relieving labor pain, from T10 to L3. It was consistent with Xu et al.’s study [4].
3. It might be appropriate to describe acupoints using “cun”, but the definition and characterization of acupoints remained controversial [5]. It was not appropriate to use the title “Electro-acupuncture effectiveness on labor pain management”, since the paper focused on acupuncture instead of electro-acupuncture method. It was also not appropriate to use the term “utmost accuracy” to describe “cun” in the conclusion part, as we never see an acupuncturist use a calculator and a ruler to pinpoint acupoints, usually they use their own figures to palpate the acupoints.
4. Furthermore, electro-acupuncture method and acupuncture technique are different, the variation of applications and methodology are understandable.

Conflict of interest The author has no conflict of interest to declare.

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