

OPEN PEER REVIEW REPORT 1

Reviewer: Melanie G. Urbanchek, University of Michigan, USA.

Comments to the authors:

The novelty of using the Chinese medicine QZS is a strength of the manuscript. Their nerve histology, muscle histology, and nerve conduction data are strengths. The Scitaic Function Index is timely to perform and is of less value to understanding recovery. The authors may have interpreted non statistical differences (trends) as more important than usually allowed but the common use of QZS and the potential it may have, allow early speculation to be interpreted by the readers.

A peripheral nerve crush injury is not the a sever nerve injury. Using an agent orally with a nerve lesion could be a better test QZS on successful nerve regeneration. However, with a potentially new drug, one might prefer to begin with uses similar to anecdotal reports. The authors may choose to repeat the study with a nerve lesion model. Simple nerve crush injuries usually resolve on their own. The method of crush injury used in this study is standard for peripheral nerve crush injury literature. They were wish to mark the crush site with a fine micro suture.