Supplementary Appendix

Appendix Table 1. **Proportion of patients with≥3 mean weekly Complete Spontaneous Bowel Movements over weeks 3-8, n (%)**

	Electro-acupuncture	Prucalopride	Between-group Difference (95%CI)	Between-group Difference (90%CI)	*p* value
Modified intention-to-treat population with imputation	100/277 (36.20)	105/278 (37.80)	-1.6 (-8, 4.7)	-1.6 (-6.6, 3.3)	0.342
Modified intention-to-treat population with no imputation	95/270 (35.19)	96/264 (36.36)	-0.24（-8.14，7.67）	-0.24（-6.87，6.40）	0.953
Per-protocol population	91/257 (35.41)	91/255 (35.69)	-0.15 (-6.52, 6.21)	-0.15 (-5.1, 4.8)	0.969

CI = confidence intervals

Appendix Table 2. **Overall CSBM responder, n (%)**

	Electro-acupuncture	Prucalopride	Between-group Difference (95%CI)	*p* value
Modified intention-to-treat population	69/277 (24.91)	71/278 (25.54)	-0.63 (-7.86, 6.60)	0.864
Per-protocol population	66/257 (25.68)	68/255 (26.67)	-0.99 (-8.60, 6.63)	0.800

CI = confidence intervals; CSBM = complete spontaneous bowel movement

Appendix Table 3. **Sustained CSBM responder, n (%)**

	Electro-acupuncture	Prucalopride	Between-group Difference (95%CI)	*p* value
Modified intention-to-treat population	69/277 (24.91)	68/278 (24.46)	0.45 (-6.73, 7.62)	0.902
Per-protocol population	66/257 (25.68)	65/255 (25.49)	0.19 (-7.37, 7.75)	0.961

CI = confidence intervals; CSBM = complete spontaneous bowel movement

Appendix Table 4. **Weekly CSBMs and the change of CSBMs from baseline**

Week	Electro-acupuncture		Prucalopride		Between-group Difference in the change from baseline of weekly CSBMs, (95%CI)	*p* value
	Weekly CSBMs, mean (95%CI)	Change from baseline of weekly CSBMs, mean (95%CI)	Weekly CSBMs, mean (95%CI)	Change from baseline of weekly CSBMs, mean (95%CI)		
-2	0.54 (0.43, 0.65)	/	0.49 (0.40, 0.59)	/	/	
-1	0.48 (0.36, 0.60)	/	0.39 (0.28. 0.50)	/	/	
1	1.48 (1.26, 1.71)	0.99 (0.92, 1.05)	2.12 (1.83, 2.41)	1.69 (1.63, 1.75)	-0.70 (-0.79, -0.61)	<.0001
2	1.97 (1.73, 2.22)	1.48 (1.42, 1.55)	2.26 (1.97, 2.55)	1.81 (1.74, 1.88)	-0.32 (-0.42, -0.23)	<.0001
3	2.09 (1.83, 2.35)	1.58 (1.51, 1.65)	2.29 (2.02, 2.57)	1.80 (1.74, 1.87)	-0.22 (-0.32, -0.13)	<.0001
4	2.17 (1.92, 2.43)	1.65 (1.58, 1.71)	2.36 (2.09, 2.63)	1.86 (1.80, 1.93)	-0.22 (-0.31, -0.13)	<.0001
5	2.27 (2.01, 2.52)	1.73 (1.66, 1.79)	2.33 (2.06, 2.61)	1.82 (1.76, 1.89)	-0.09 (-0.19, 0.00)	0.046
6	2.48 (2.23, 2.73)	1.96 (1.90, 2.03)	2.42 (2.15, 2.70)	1.90 (1.84, 1.97)	0.06 (-0.03, 0.15)	0.180
7	2.64 (2.36, 2.91)	2.11 (2.05, 2.18)	2.43 (2.15, 2.72)	1.91 (1.84, 1.98)	0.21 (0.11, 0.30)	<.0001
8	2.79 (2.50, 3.09)	2.25 (2.18, 2.32)	2.47 (2.19, 2.75)	1.94 (1.87, 2.01)	0.31 (0.21, 0.41)	<.0001
11	2.35 (2.09. 2.62)	1.81 (1.74, 1.88)	2.40 (2.13, 2.66)	1.88 (1.81, 1.94)	-0.07 (-0.16, 0.03)	0.164
12	2.52 (2.24, 2.80)	1.97 (1.90, 2.04)	2.46 (2.19, 2.73)	1.93 (1.87, 2.00)	0.04 (-0.06, 0.13)	0.430
15	2.36 (2.10, 2.62)	1.81 (1.75, 1.88)	2.46 (2.18, 2.73)	1.93 (1.87, 2.00)	-0.12 (-0.22, -0.03)	0.009
16	2.36 (2.09, 2.64)	1.81 (1.75, 1.88)	2.50 (2.23, 2.77)	1.98 (1.91, 2.04)	-0.17 (-0.26, -0.07)	0.001
19	2.27 (2.02, 2.52)	1.72 (1.65, 1.79)	2.44 (2.16, 2.72)	1.91 (1.85, 1.98)	-0.19 (-0.29, -0.10)	<.0001
20	2.40 (2.12, 2.68)	1.85 (1.78, 1.91)	2.38 (2.12, 2.65)	1.85 (1.78, 1.92)	0.00 (-0.10, 0.09)	0.952
31	2.33 (2.07, 2.59)	1.77 (1.70, 1.83)	2.43 (2.14, 2.72)	1.88 (1.82, 1.95)	-0.12 (-0.21, -0.02)	0.014
32	2.42 (2.15, 2.69)	1.86 (1.79, 1.93)	2.39 (2.10, 2.67)	1.85 (1.78, 1.92)	0.01 (-0.09, 0.10)	0.892

CI = confidence intervals; CSBMs = complete spontaneous bowel movements

Appendix Table 5. **Adverse Events of two groups during the whole study**[*]

Adverse Events, n (%)	Electro-acupuncture (n=277)	Prucaloride (n=278)	Total (n=555)
Nausea	1 (0.36)	22 (7.91)	23 (4.14)
Fever	2 (0.72)	4 (1.44)	6 (1.08)
Faint	1 (0.36)	5 (1.80)	6 (1.08)
Abdominal pain	4 (1.44)	38 (13.67)	42 (7.57)
Diarrhea	4 (1.44)	36 (12.95)	40 (7.21)
Blood-stained stools due to diarrhea	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Bloating	1 (0.36)	3 (1.08)	4 (0.72)
Cold	10 (3.61)	25 (8.99)	35 (6.31)
High uric acid	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Arthralgia	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Muscle aches	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Sense of hunger	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Scapulohumeral periarthritis	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Foot sprain	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Neck and shoulder pain	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Cervical spondylosis	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Local hematoma	2 (0.72)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.36)
Cough	2 (0.72)	7 (2.52)	9 (1.62)
Fear or nervous	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Dry mouth	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Gastritis	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Urinary tract infection	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Sprain	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Emesis	0 (0.00)	2 (0.72)	2 (0.36)
Hyperplasia of mammary glands	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Upper respiratory infection	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Upper limb numbness	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Pyelonephritis	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Insomnia	1 (0.36)	3 (1.08)	4 (0.72)
Eczema	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Empyrosis	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Arthrolithisis	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Dysmenorrhea	1 (0.36)	2 (0.72)	3 (0.54)
Headache	4 (1.44)	34 (12.23)	38 (6.85)
Dizziness	2 (0.72)	20 (7.19)	22 (3.96)
Distention in head	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Leg Hurt	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Stomachache	1 (0.36)	4 (1.44)	5 (0.90)
Knee Arthritis	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Knee joint pain	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Dyspepsia	0 (0.00)	3 (1.08)	3 (0.54)
Palpitation	0 (0.00)	12 (4.32)	12 (2.16)
Cardiac surgery due to myocardial infarction	1 (0.36) †	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Chest distress and short of breath	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Elevated blood pressure	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Toothache	1 (0.36)	1 (0.36)	2 (0.36)
Pharyngalgia	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Soreness of waist	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Low back pain	1 (0.36)	4 (1.44)	5 (0.90)
Lumbar disc herniation	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Depression	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Wrist sprain	0 (0.00)	1 (0.36)	1 (0.18)
Premature menstruation	2 (0.72)	0 (0.00)	2 (0.36)
Fatty liver	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)
Urticaria	1 (0.36)	0 (0.00)	1 (0.18)

[*] Adverse events listed in this table contained prucalopride-related adverse events; however, they were independent with acupuncture-related adverse events.

† The only severe adverse event of this trial was unrelated to electro-acupuncture.

Appendix Table 6. **Patients' acceptability of Acupuncture** [*]

Acceptability degree n(%)	
Acceptable	262(94.6)
Unacceptable	3(1.1)
Missing data	12

[*] The acceptance of patients towards EA was assessed within 5 minutes after the first and 10^{th} treatment ranging from 0-4 [very difficult to very easy]. The final score was the average of the two assessments. Patients withdrew before the 10^{th} treatment only use the first assessment. Patients scored ≥0 and <2 were defined as unacceptable and ≥2 were defined as acceptable.