(a) What kind of study is this? This is a systematic review.

(b) Why does the author think that statistical meta-analysis would be inappropriate? Do you agree? The studies are evaluating several different methods of acupressure, for different lengths of time. The treatments are related, but not the same. Also, the outcome measures vary a lot from study to study. It seems implausible that there would be a common treatment difference to estimate, so I agree with the author.

(c) What problems are caused by the results being reported in terms of significance tests? When differences are not significant, we do not know whether this is because there was no difference or the sample was not large enough to detect a difference that was present. The author tends to interpret ‘not significant’ as ‘no difference’

(d) What are the author’s conclusions concerning acupressure and are they justified by the data? She concludes that acupressure benefits many women and is worth trying, as it appears not to have adverse effects. This seems a reasonable conclusion from the evidence.