Peer-review report(s). Authors must resolve all issues in the manuscript that are raised in the peer-review report(s) and provide point-by-point responses to each of the issues raised in the peer-review report(s):

Reviewer #1:

**Scientific Quality:** Grade C (Good)

**Language Quality:** Grade B (Minor language polishing)

**Conclusion:** Minor revision

**Specific Comments to Authors:**

Depression is a common, chronic, and recurrent mood disorder that has become a worldwide health hazard. This article presents a promising exploration of combined therapy for mild-to-moderate depression using fluoxetine hydrochloride and acupuncture at ghost points. The authors conducted detailed research and reliable statistical analysis to evaluate the clinical efficacy in patients with mild-to-moderate depression. Their results draw a conclusion that acupuncture at ghost points combined with paroxetine tablets can safely improve depressive symptoms and sleep disorders, regulate neurotransmitter levels, and reduce stress responses in patients with mild-to-moderate depression. In short, the topic of this manuscript is interesting and of great significance. This manuscript is clearly presented and well organized, I have only two minor concerns: 1) The title of Figure 1 is not accurate enough, how about “Changes of HAMD-24 and SDS scores in the two groups”.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have changed the title.

Modify as follows: The changes of HAMD-24 and SDS scores in the two groups before and after treatment (2, 4, 6, 8 weeks).

We also compared changes in HAMD-24 and SDS scores between the two groups.

In addition, the figure legend of Figure 1 is too brief. Modifications should be made so that readers can easily obtain the information.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have made changes to
Figure 1.

In Table 3, two columns are blank. What is the purpose of adding them? Can they be deleted? The same problem appears in Table 4.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have removed them.

2) The study's findings are based on patients admitted to Shanghai Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine. While the results are valuable for this group, the generalizability to broader populations, including diverse ethnicities and cultural backgrounds, is unclear. It would be better to discuss the potential limitations in this regard.

Reply: Thank you for your valuable comments, we have made a supplement. The details are as follows: However, this study still has some limitations. For example, this study is a single-center study with a single sample size source, and its universality to a wider population including different ethnic and cultural backgrounds is not clear. In the future, multi-centers can be carried out to expand the sample size for further exploration.