A Meta-Analysis of Acupuncture for Autism Spectrum Disorders

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Condition being studied: Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder and the etiology is still unclear. There has an increasing number of published trials on acupuncture for autism spectrum disorder.

Information sources: Five English databases (Cochrane Library, Medline, Embase, PubMed, Web of Science), five Chinese databases (Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang Data, SinoMed, WeiPu Data, Chinese Clinical Trial Register).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 15 April 2020 and was last updated on 15 April 2020 (registration number INPLASY202040087).
Rating Scale (CARS) Autism Behavior Checklist(ABC).

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METHODS

Participant or population: Autism spectrum disorder patients.

Intervention: Acupuncture with behavior training.

Comparator: Behavior training.

Study designs to be included: Randomized Controlled Trial.


Information sources: Five English databases (Cochrane Library, Medline, Embase, PubMed, Web of Science), five Chinese databases (Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang Data, SinoMed, WeiPu Data, Chinese Clinical Trial Register)

Main outcome(s): Total score of Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) Autism Behavior Checklist(ABC).

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Random sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding of participants and personnel, blinding of outcome assessments, incomplete outcome data, selective reporting, and other bias.

Strategy of data synthesis: “acupuncture” OR “electro acupuncture” OR “acupuncture point”) AND (“autism” OR “autism spectrum disorders”).

Subgroup analysis: Divide subgroups according to age and acupuncture method.

Sensibility analysis: I2 test. We considered I2 ≥ 50% to be indicative of substantial heterogeneity, and I2 ≥ 75% to be indicative of serious heterogeneity.

Country(ies) involved: CHINA, including mainland and Hongkong.

Keywords: autism, acupuncture.