# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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**Review Stage at time of this submission: Data analysis.**

**Conflicts of interest: No.**

## A Meta-Analysis of Acupuncture for Autism Spectrum Disorders

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**Review question / Objective:** Patients：autism spectrum disorder, intervention：acupuncture with behavior training, comparison：behavior training, outcome：total score of Childhood Autism Rating Scale（CARS）Autism Behavior Checklist(ABC).

**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).

## INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** Patients： autism spectrum disorder, intervention： acupuncture with behavior training, comparison： behavior training, outcome： total score of Childhood Autism

Rating Scale (CARS) Autism Behavior Checklist(ABC).

**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.

**METHODS**

**Participant or population:** Autism spectrum disorder patients.

**Intervention:** Acupuncture with behavior training.

**Comparator:** Behavior training.

**Study designs to be included:** Randomized Controlled Trial.

**Eligibility criteria:** RCT,patients：autism spectrum disorder, intervention：acupuncture with behavior training, comparison：behavior training, outcome：total score of Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS) Autism Behavior Checklist(ABC).

**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.