

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

The effectiveness and safety of acupuncture for chronic prostatitis: a protocol for an overview of systematic reviews

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Review question / Objective: Is acupuncture an effective and safe treatment for chronic prostatitis?

Condition being studied: Chronic prostatitis is a common urogenital disease, which seriously affects the quality of life. Some studies show that the incidence rate of chronic prostatitis is increasing. The pathogenesis of chronic prostatitis is complex and the pathophysiological changes have not been elucidated. At present, the treatment of chronic prostatitis in modern medicine mostly uses antibiotics, α -blockers, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and so on, but there are still some controversies.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 20 April 2020 and was last updated on 20 April 2020 (registration number INPLASY202040124).

INTRODUCTION

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studies show that the incidence rate of chronic prostatitis is increasing. The pathogenesis of chronic prostatitis is complex and the pathophysiological changes have not been elucidated. At present, the treatment of chronic prostatitis in modern medicine mostly uses antibiotics, α -blockers, non-steroidal anti-

inflammatory drugs and so on, but there are still some controversies.

METHODS

Participant or population: Patients diagnosed with chronic prostatitis.

Intervention: Acupuncture therapy was the main intervention in the treatment group (including acupuncture, electroacupuncture or warm-acupuncture, etc.), which could be combined with other therapies.

Comparator: No treatment, placebo, sham-acupuncture, medicine or other therapies except acupuncture therapy.

Study designs to be included: Systematic reviews and meta-analyses.

Eligibility criteria: This overview will include systematic reviews which meet the "PICOS".

Information sources: The following electronic databases will be searched: PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM), Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), VIP Database and Wanfang Database.

Main outcome(s): NIH-Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index (NIH-CPSI).

Additional outcome(s): Effective rate; Other CP symptom scales; EPS-WBC; Adverse events.

Data management: Two reviewers will independently screen and extract the collected studies. The data will be extracted using a unified Excel spreadsheet. The extracted contents include: authors' name, year of publication, the number of included studies, quality of included studies, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, main conclusions and other relevant indicators. Differences in this process will be resolved through discussion, and a third reviewer will help them if necessary.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Two reviewers will independently use the AMSTAR2 tool and the GRADE to evaluate the methodological quality and the evidence quality of the included systematic reviews. Differences between the two reviewers will be resolved through discussion, and a third reviewer will help them if necessary.

Strategy of data synthesis: We will present the final assessment results and the characteristics of each study in the form of tables. In addition, we will make a statistical description to summarize the results of the included systematic reviews.

Subgroup analysis: None.

Sensibility analysis: None.

Language: English and Chinese.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: Chronic prostatitis; Acupuncture therapy; Overview of systematic reviews; AMSTAR2; GRADE.