

INPLASY PROTOCOL

Acupuncture therapy for Alzheimer's disease: A protocol for an overview of systematic reviews

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The authors have no conflicts
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Review question / Objective: This protocol aims to summarize the available evidence from current systematic reviews for the efficacy of acupuncture therapy for Alzheimer's disease.

Condition being studied: Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the fifth-leading cause of death in people more than 65 years old. Acupuncture therapy has been traditionally used to treat various kind of health problems including AD. This protocol aims to summarize the available evidence from current systematic reviews for the efficacy of acupuncture therapy for AD.

Information sources: PubMed, Cochrane Library, Embase, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang Data, Chongqing VIP (CQVIP), and Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 07 April 2020 and was last updated on 07 April 2020 (registration number INPLASY202040035).

INTRODUCTION

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to summarize the available evidence from current systematic reviews for the efficacy of acupuncture therapy for AD.

METHODS

Participant or population: Patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Intervention: Acupuncture therapy or acupuncture plus drug.

Comparator: Drugs or no treatment.

Study designs to be included: Systematic review of randomized control trials.

Eligibility criteria: Published systematic reviews which were reported in Chinese or English, and meet the "PICOS", will be considered for inclusion in this overview.

Information sources: PubMed, Cochrane Library, Embase, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Wanfang Data, Chongqing VIP (CQVIP), and Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM).

Main outcome(s): Mini-mental state examination (MMSE); Activities of daily living (ADL); Alzheimer's disease assessment scale-cognitive section (ADAS-cog).

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: The methodological quality, report quality and evidence quality will be evaluated by AMSTAR-2 tool, PRISMA checklist and GRADE system respectively.

Strategy of data synthesis: We will provide a narrative description of the findings of the included systematic reviews (SRs). Tables will be produced to detail the included studies and their outcomes. In addition, we will synthesis these reviews and provide pooled treatment effects for all SRs which include the following outcomes: MMSE, ADL, ADAS-cog score. For each of our outcomes we will perform a sub-group analysis comparing acupuncture VS drugs, acupuncture combined with drugs VS drugs. If necessary, the results will combine in a meta-analysis, the statistical

analyses were conducted using the RevMan5.3 software. The summary effect size was estimated by using mean difference (MD) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) for continuous outcomes.

Subgroup analysis: For each of our outcomes we will perform a sub-group analysis comparing acupuncture VS drugs, acupuncture combined with drugs VS drugs.

Sensibility analysis: No sensitivity analysis required in overview.

Countries involved: China.

Keywords: Alzheimer's disease; acupuncture; AMSTAR 2; PRISMA; GRADE; overview.