

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Conflicts of interest:
None.

Acupuncture for Ulcerative Colitis: A systematic review and meta-analysis protocol

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Review question / Objective: In terms of acupuncture therapy, this study focus on clinical experiments of UC patients. Regardless of reinforcing and reducing manipulation, intensity, angle insertion, duration, any types of acupuncture will be included, such as electro-acupuncture, manual acupuncture, scalp-acupuncture, auricular-acupuncture, abdominal-acupuncture, fire-needling, three-edged needle. Combination therapy (e.g., basic therapy, decoction of herbal medicine, moxibustion) will be excluded. The control group will be intervened with sham acupuncture, no treatment, placebo.

Condition being studied: Ulcerative Colitis(UC) is a difficult-to-treat inflammatory disorder among the colonic disease. The prevalence of UC is rising on the basis of epidemiological researches recently. Anti-inflammatory pills are frequently conducted to treat UC, certain adverse effects and repeated cases are peculiarly prone to occur in the clinical practice yet. Acupuncture is reported to treat veriform of diseases without drug damage inducement. In this systematic review protocol, we aim to create and represent the safety and efficacy of acupuncture in treating UC.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 18 November 2020 and was last updated on 18 November 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020110075).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Participant or population: Patients diagnosed with Ulcerative Colitis (UC).

Intervention: Acupuncture and western medicine.

Comparator: The control group will be intervened with sham acupuncture, no treatment, placebo.

Study designs to be included: All randomized controlled trails (RCT) of Acupuncture for UC will be considered. Incomplete RCTs, for instance, quasi-RCTs and uncontrolled trails will be excluded.

Information sources: The English and Chinese databases will be searched as the following: Pubmed, Web of science, Springer, WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP), Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (CBM), China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), the Wan-Fang Database, and Chinese Scientific Journal Database (VIP database). In addition, the correlative articles are manually referred as a complement. In regardless of limiting publication types, we will only include RCTs related with acupuncture for UC in both English and Chinese. The Cochrane collaboration's procedure will be used as

the assessment of bias risk and trial quality. And RevMan V.5.3.5 statistical software will be applied as the included data analysis.

Main outcome(s): The studies will assess the symptom scores as the primary outcomes, the symptom scores include colonic symptoms(Abdominal pain, diarrhea, mucus pus and blood stool, acute) and severe, patients may be accompanied by fever, weight loss and other systemic symptoms.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Funnel plot is as the detection to assess the reporting bias (trials number >10).

Strategy of data synthesis: Meta-analysis will be applied by using RevMan5.3.5 software. We will synthesize and analyze the clinical data in accordance with the level of I2 value. The fixed effect model will be selected if I2 value \leq 50%, the random effect model will be adopted if I2 value>50%.

Subgroup analysis: For available data, we will conduct the subgroup analysis to evaluate the possible causes of heterogeneity(type of acupuncture, type of control, characteristics of participants, outcome measures).

Sensibility analysis: In order to eliminate the lower quality and non-blind trials, sensitivity analysis will be produced as the analytical method to work for the stable and reliable confirmation.

Language: Chinese and English published articles.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: acupuncture, ulcerative colitis, protocol, systematic review.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Wang Chengyulin.

Author 2 - Nie Yingjun.

Author 3 - Wu Qiaofeng.

Conflicts of interest: We declare that we have no financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that can inappropriately influence our work, there is no professional or other personal interest of any nature or kind in any product, service and/or company that could be construed as influencing the position presented in, or the review of, the manuscript entitled.