

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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## Massage Therapy for Labor Pain : A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis

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**Review Stage at time of this  
submission:** The review has  
not yet started.

**Conflicts of interest:**  
The author has no conflicts  
of interest to declare.

**Review question / Objective:** How is the efficacy and safety of massage in treating labor pain.

**Condition being studied:** The review has not yet started.

**Information sources:** We will conduct a systematic electronic search of PubMed, Embase, Cochrane library, Chinese biomedical literature database (CBM), China national knowledge infrastructure (CNKI) and wanfang database.

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 04 December 2020 and was last updated on 04 December 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020120019).

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** How is the efficacy and safety of massage in treating labor pain.

**Condition being studied:** The review has not yet started.

### METHODS

**Search strategy:** PubMed, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, Web of

Science, EMBASE, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), Health Technology Assessment Database, Wanfang, Chinese Science and Technology Periodical Database (VIP) from inception to December 1st, 2020. All published randomized controlled trials in English or Chinese related to massaging for labor pain will be included.

**Participant or population:** Pregnant women aged 20 and above and < 37 weeks gestation.

**Intervention:** Massage.

**Comparator:** We will compare with the following interventions: treatments other than massage (example: usual or standard care, placebo).

**Study designs to be included:** We will include articles related to massage therapy of patients with labor pain. Due to language restrictions, we will search for articles in English and Chinese in order to get a more objective and true evaluation, all articles included are randomized controlled trial (RCT) type articles.

**Eligibility criteria:** RCT.

**Information sources:** We will conduct a systematic electronic search of PubMed, Embase, Cochrane library, Chinese biomedical literature database (CBM), China national knowledge infrastructure (CNKI) and wanfang database.

**Main outcome(s):** Effectiveness of massage for labor pain.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** We will use the Cochrane collaborative tool to independently assess the risk of bias in the included studies. We will evaluate the following aspects of the article: sequence generation, assignment sequence hiding, blindness of participants and staff, outcome evaluators, incomplete result data, selective result reporting, and other sources of bias. The risk of bias is evaluated at 3 levels, namely, low risk, high

risk, and ambiguity. If the information is vague, we will try to contact the author of the article.

**Strategy of data synthesis:** We will use Review Manager Software (RevMan) V.5.3 (Copenhagen, Denmark) for data analysis and quantitative data synthesis. If there is no finding of statistical heterogeneity, the fixed-effect model is used for data synthesis. If there is significant statistical heterogeneity, we will use the random effect model, and all participants will explore the possible causes from a clinical and methodological perspective and provide a descriptive or subgroup analysis.

**Subgroup analysis:** Subgroup analysis will be performed to explain heterogeneity if possible. Factors such as different types of control interventions and different outcomes will be considered.

**Sensibility analysis:** Subgroup analysis based on different diseases, different measurement tool and different intensity or follow-up period according to the details of included studies.

**Country(ies) involved:** China.

**Keywords:** massage; labor pain; protocol; systematic review.

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