INPLASY PROTOCOL

Warm acupuncture therapy for Primary sciatica: a protocol of 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: None.

Review question / Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of Warm acupuncture treatment for Primary sciatica.

Condition being studied: Primary sciatica is characterized by sciatic nerve pain (pain that radiates from the low back to below the knee), paresthesia (mostly numbness and tingling), and muscle weakness in the affected leg or foot.

Information sources: Pubmed, Embase, Cochrane Library, Chinese Biomedical Literatures Database(CBM), China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), WangFang Database (WF), Chinese.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 22 December 2020 and was last updated on 22 December 2020 (registration number INPLASY2020120109).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of Warm acupuncture treatment for Primary sciatica.

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METHODS

Participant or population: Patients with Primary sciatica.

Intervention: Warm acupuncture and moxibustion, or other conventional therapies (drugs, massage) combined with warm acupuncture and moxibustion.

Comparator: Warm acupuncture and moxibustion, or other conventional therapies (drugs, massage) combined with warm acupuncture and moxibustion.

Study designs to be included: We will include randomized controlled trials (RCTS) involving patients associated with sciatica regardless of gender, race, age, or environment.

Eligibility criteria: Subjects: Sciatica-related patients, age, and sex were not restricted. Interventions: Warm acupuncture stimulation, or in combination with other conventional therapies (Western medicine, massage, etc.) was used as an intervention in the treatment group, while acupuncture stimulation alone or moxibustion stimulation was used as an intervention in the control group Measurement of results: Visual Analogue scale (VAS), Short Acceptable Rating Profile (AAPR).

Information sources: Pubmed, Embase, Cochrane Library, Chinese Biomedical Literatures Database(CBM), China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), WangFang Database (WF), Chinese.

Main outcome(s): Describe the outcomes of the review including all relevant details such as timing and effect measures.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: The included randomized study will be evaluated by two independent raters (Jingwei Wang and Rui-Lin Zeng) using a Cochrane collaboration tool to assess the risk of bias in randomized trials.Any disagreement will be discussed or resolved through consultation with the third reviewer (He Xingwei).

Strategy of data synthesis: Data synthesis will be conducted with RevMan V.5.4 software provided by the Cochrane Collaboration. Before data meta-analysis, we measure the heterogeneity with a standard test. Depending on the level of heterogeneity, those studies with high heterogeneity (p>0.10) will use fixed-effect model. We will use the RR for dichotomous data and SMD for continuous data and mean difference with 95% CIs. Those studies with low heterogeneity (p=0.10), we use the random-effect model. Subgroup or sensitivity analysis will be performed if necessary. We will use qualitative analysis if there is excessive data heterogeneity.

Subgroup analysis: If necessary, the data will be analyzed in groups According to different factors, the analysis is as follows :1.Control group intervention (such as moxibustion, no treatment, or other TRADITIONAL Chinese medicine or non-traditional Chinese medicine treatment).2. Types of warm acupuncture: traditional warm acupuncture and moxibustion and modern warm acupuncture and moxibustion.

Sensibility analysis: To assess the influence of each individual study, leave-one-out sensitivity analysis was performed iteratively by removing one study at a time to confirm that the findings were not influenced by any single study.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: Warm acupuncture.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Cao Fang - The author drafted and improved the manuscript.
Author 2 - Guo Cui - The author drafted and improved the manuscript.
Author 3 - He Xingwei- Revise this protocol; search strategy.