INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: P: stroke patients; I: sling exercise therapy; C: conventional physical therapy; O: Berg balance scale; Fugl-Meyer scale; functional ambulation category scale; S: a randomized controlled trial.

Condition being studied: Stroke patients.

METHODS

Participant or population: Stroke patients.

Intervention: Sling exercise therapy.
**Comparator**: Conventional physical therapy.

**Study designs to be included**: Randomized controlled trials about sling exercise therapy improve lower extremity function in stroke patients were recalled from databases of Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, PubMed, EMBASE, CNKI, Wan-fang data, CBM. The quality of the trials was evaluated and the data were extracted. Data were analyzed with Revman 5.4.

**Eligibility criteria**: 1. Experiment design: randomized controlled trials 2. Subjects: Stroke patients aged ≥ 18 years 3. Intervention measures: Conventional physical therapy was used in the control group; The experimental group was treated with suspension exercise therapy. 4. Outcomes: Berg balance scale; Fugl-Meyer scale; functional ambulation category scale.

**Information sources**: Randomized controlled trials about sling exercise therapy improve lower extremity function in stroke patients were recalled from databases of Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, PubMed, EMBASE, CNKI, Wan-fang data, CBM, and VIP.

**Main outcome(s)**: Berg balance scale; Fugl-Meyer scale; functional ambulation category scale.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis**: The study quality of the included literature was evaluated according to the quality assessment criteria recommended by the Cochrane system evaluator's manual: A: generation of random assignment schemes; B: Whether to hide the distribution scheme; C: Whether to blind the subjects; D: Whether to use the blind method for the evaluator; E: Incomplete result data; F: Selective reporting of results; G: Other risks of bias.

**Strategy of data synthesis**: The RevMan5.4 software provided by the Cochrane Collaboration was used for Meta-analysis of the extracted data.

**Subgroup analysis**: 1. Intervention time: less than 15 days; 2. Intervention time: 15-30 days; 3. Intervention time: more than 30 days.

**Sensitivity analysis**: Sensitivity analysis was conducted for trials with too long intervention time or too heavy intervention intensity.

**Language**: English and Chinese.

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

**Keywords**: Stroke; sling exercise therapy; Exercise rehabilitation; balance; walking; meta-analysis.

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