INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Support: None.

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The effectiveness and safety of scraping therapy in adjuvant treatment of fever caused by COVID-19: A Protocol for Systematic Review

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Review question / Objective: What is the adjuvant therapeutic effect of scraping therapy on COVID-19?

Condition being studied: Fever is one of the most common clinical symptoms of exopathic diseases. In recent years, many randomized controlled trials have shown that Gua Sha therapy has a significant effect on exogenous fever. Therefore, this study hopes to provide evidence-based support for the treatment of exogenous fever through this systematic evaluation.

Information sources: We will search the following electronic databases: Cochrane Library, PubMed, Web of Science, EBASE, CNKI(China National Knowledge Infrastructure), Wan Fang (Wanfang Data Knowledge Service Platform), VIP (Chinese Scientific and Technological Journal Database). The item of RCT was also chosen in corresponding databases and the languages were restricted to Chinese and English. All sources to be searched from the earliest date until April 1, 2021.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 12 April 2021 and was last updated on 12 April 2021 (registration number INPLASY202140070).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Participant or population: Patients with fever caused by COVID-19, without limitations on age, gender, or race.

Intervention: Scraping therapy, with no restrictions on the types or dosages of scraping.

Comparator: Any kind of treatment without scraping therapy (Western medicine, placebo or regular treatment).

Study designs to be included: RCT.

Eligibility criteria: Fever symptoms of COVID-19 patients are not limited to age, gender, race and other factors.

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Main outcome(s): Total clinical response rate, total clinical effective rate = (number of cured cases + number of effective cases)/total number of cases 100%.

Additional outcome(s): Adverse event.

Data management: A small number of trials without prominent divergence will be included in this systematic review, and all the records will be put into the EndNote X8 software after the electronic search stage. Two authors will screen titles and abstracts independently in order to determine which trials should be excluded. The full text will be examined if necessary. The following aspects will be considered: general information (year of publication, author's

details etc.), participations, inventions, comparisons, outcomes, adverse events and other information. If there is any disagreement, two authors will resolve the issue by discussion, and if there is any further disagreement, a third author will arbitrate.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: This will be conducted using the Cochrane collaboration's risk of bias tool. Two authors will estimate domain risk of bias as follows: sequence generation of randomized, allocation concealment, blinding of participants, personnel and outcome assessment, incomplete outcome data and selective outcome report, and other sources of bias. If there are any disagreements, they will be resolved by the third author.

Strategy of data synthesis: RevMan V.5.3 software will be used in data synthesis. We will express dichotomous data in RR and continuous data in mean difference (MD) or standardized mean difference (SMD). The fixed-effects model will be put into use if $I^2$75%, and we will then offer a descriptive analysis or subgroup analysis.

Subgroup analysis: Subgroup analyses will be used if there is an adequate number of studies. (1) the type of control group. (2) the treatment duration.

Sensitivity analysis: When sufficient trials are available, sensitivity analysis will be performed by sequentially eliding each trial to check the robustness of the final results.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: scraping therapy; covid-19; fever; substitution therapy.

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