INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Corresponding author:
Xiaodong Lv

lnzyxdl@yeah.net

Author Affiliation:
Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine

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

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Effectiveness and safety of acupoint application for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: A protocol for an updated systematic review and meta-analysis

Zhang, H[1]; Huang, H[2]; Pang, L[3]; Lv, X[4]; Zheng, W[5].

Review question / Objective: **The purpose of this systematic review and meta-analysis is to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of acupoint application combined with conventional western medicine interventions in the treatment of COPD in remission stage.**
Condition being studied: **Acute exacerbation is a primary cause of repeated hospitalization and death in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. Previous researches have reported that acupoint application can be applied to the treatment of COPD.**
Information sources: **PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Web of Science, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, WangFang Database, Chinese Science and Technology Periodical Database, SinoMed.**

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 14 April 2021 and was last updated on 14 April 2021 (registration number INPLASY202140080).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: **The purpose of this systematic review and meta-analysis is to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of acupoint application combined with conventional western medicine interventions in the treatment of COPD in remission stage.**

Condition being studied: **Acute exacerbation is a primary cause of**

repeated hospitalization and death in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients. Previous researches have reported that acupoint application can be applied to the treatment of COPD.

METHODS

Participant or population: The participants should be diagnosed with COPD in stable phase.

Intervention: Acupoint application combined with conventional western medicine therapeutic measure should be applied in the treatment group.

Comparator: The same conventional western medicine therapeutic measure must be used in the comparator arm.

Study designs to be included: Randomized controlled trials

Eligibility criteria: Randomized controlled trials of acupoint application combined with routine western medicine interventions in the treatment of COPD in remission stage.

Information sources: PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, Web of Science, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, WangFang Database, Chinese Science and Technology Periodical Database, SinoMed.

Main outcome(s): Clinical effective rate; TCM symptom score; quality of life (COPD assessment test, St. george's respiratory questionnaire, chronic respiratory questionnaire, etc.); dyspnea (borg scale, visual analog dyspnea scale, modified british medical research council respiratory difficulty questionnaire, etc.); exercise capacity (6-minute walking test, shuttle walking test, etc.); lung function (FEV1, FVC, FEV1/FVC, TLC, RV, etc.); frequency of acute exacerbation; adverse effects.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: We will use the Cochrane risk of bias assessment tool version 2.0 (RoB 2.0) to assess the methodological quality of RCTs.

Strategy of data synthesis: The Stata13.1 software (Stata-Corp LP, College Station TX77845) will be used for the meta-analysis. When the p-value of Q-test >0.1 and $I2<50\%$, a fixed effects model will be applied; otherwise, a random-effects model will be used.

Subgroup analysis: Where heterogeneity is significant, subgroup analysis will be implemented based on specified effect modifiers as follows: different interventions, controls, publication year, sample size, course of treatment, publication language, risk of bias.

Sensitivity analysis: According to the risk of bias assessment results, we will eliminate the low-quality literature to carry out sensitivity analysis to judge the robustness of the conclusion.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: acupoint application; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; meta analysis, systematic review.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Haoyang Zhang.
Author 2 - Han Huang.
Author 3 - Lijian Pang.
Author 4 - Xiaodong Lv.
Author 5 - Weidong Zheng.