

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Corresponding author:
Haoran Wang

15169068969whr@sina.com

Author Affiliation:
The Second Hospital of
Shandong University.

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Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Efficacy and safety of acupuncture for vascular cognitive impairment no dementia: A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis

Wang, H¹; Fu, X²; Du, Y³; Hou, Z⁴; Sun, S⁵; Guo, C⁶; Jia, H⁷; Sun, Q⁸.

Review question / Objective: This systematic review will provide evidence of whether acupuncture is an effective and safe intervention for VCIND.

Condition being studied: According to the literature, although acupuncture is widely used clinically in the treatment of VCIND, it is still lacking high-quality evidence because of nonstandard measurement and subjective judgment.

Information sources: Web of Science (WOS), EBSCO, Spinger, Pubmed, Cochrane Library, Chinese Biomedical Literature Database(CBM), Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD), CNKI, Wan-fang Database, Chinese Scientific and Technical Journals Database(VIP), and other electronic databases.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 14 June 2021 and was last updated on 14 June 2021 (registration number INPLASY202160044).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: This systematic review will provide evidence of whether acupuncture is an effective and safe intervention for VCIND.

Condition being studied: According to the literature, although acupuncture is widely

used clinically in the treatment of VCIND, it is still lacking high-quality evidence because of nonstandard measurement and subjective judgment.

METHODS

Participant or population: Patients with a diagnosis of VCIND.

Intervention: Acupuncture

Comparator: Other treatments.

Study designs to be included: RCTs of acupuncture for treating VCIND published in English and Chinese journals.

Eligibility criteria: Reported in Chinese and English, and meet the 'PICOS'.

Information sources: Web of Science (WOS), EBSCO, Spinger, Pubmed, Cochrane Library, Chinese Biomedical Literature Database(CBM), Chinese Science Citation Database (CSCD), CNKI, Wan-fang Database, Chinese Scientific and Technical Journals Database(VIP), and other electronic databases.

Main outcome(s): Total clinical effective rate, MoCA, MMSE.

Additional outcome(s): ADL, SDSVD, and adverse effects.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: According to Cochrane Handbook(5.2.0), two independent will apply Review Manager (5.3.5) to evaluate the quality of included articles and the risk of bias.

Strategy of data synthesis: A meta-analysis or descriptive analysis will be performed according to the age of participants, disease course, pathogenic factors, intervention and measurement methods, and heterogeneity levels, etc.

Subgroup analysis: Subgroup analysis will be performed on these particular features of included literature (e.g, gender, age, disease course, pathogenic factors, interventions-related information, and measurement methods) which will cause the heterogeneity.

Sensitivity analysis: We will conduct sensitivity analysis to assess the reliability of the results. We will remove low-quality studies on an item-by-item basis and then compile the data to evaluate study quality, the impact of sample size, missing data on

the results of this work, and statistical methods.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: protocol, acupuncture, vascular cognitive impairment no dementia, systematic review, meta-analysis.

Contributions of each author:

Author 1 - Haoran Wang.

Author 2 - Xiaoyan Fu.

Author 3 - Yichao Du.

Author 4 - Zhihui Hou.

Author 5 - Shengming Sun.

Author 6 - Chenchen Guo.

Author 7 - Hongling Jia.

Author 8 - Qiangsan Sun.