

# INPLASY PROTOCOL

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submission:** Formal screening  
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**Conflicts of interest:**  
None declared.

## Effect of auricular point pressing therapy on liver cancer A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis

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**Review question / Objective:** P: Any participants who are diagnosed as liver cancer will be considered for inclusion. Suffer from severe hepatic encephalopathy; Or accompanied by the heart and cerebrovascular, digestive system and respiratory system and other important organs of the serious primary diseases; Or psychopaths; Or long-term use of anti-panic drugs will not be included in the review. However, there are no restrictions on age, gender, occupation, race, or education. I: The experimental group was treated with auricular point pressing therapy, and there was no limitation on the operation methods, the treatment frequency, the treatment time and so on. C: The control group was blank control, placebo control or other basic treatment. O: The primary outcomes included completely disappeared of pain level and the sleep quality. The secondary outcomes included mood changes, incidence of adverse reactions, and patient satisfaction.

**INPLASY registration number:** This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 01 July 2021 and was last updated on 01 July 2021 (registration number INPLASY202170001).

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective:** P: Any participants who are diagnosed as liver cancer will be considered for inclusion. Suffer from severe hepatic encephalopathy; Or accompanied by the heart and cerebrovascular, digestive system and

respiratory system and other important organs of the serious primary diseases; Or psychopaths; Or long-term use of anti-panic drugs will not be included in the review. However, there are no restrictions on age, gender, occupation, race, or education. I: The experimental group was treated with auricular point pressing

therapy, and there was no limitation on the operation methods, the treatment frequency, the treatment time and so on. C: The control group was blank control, placebo control or other basic treatment. O: The primary outcomes included completely disappeared of pain level and the sleep quality. The secondary outcomes included mood changes, incidence of adverse reactions, and patient satisfaction.

**Condition being studied:** Liver cancer.

## METHODS

**Participant or population:** Liver cancer patient.

**Intervention:** The experimental group was treated with auricular point pressing therapy, and there was no limitation on the operation methods, the treatment frequency, the treatment time and so on.

**Comparator:** The control group was blank control, placebo control or other basic treatment.

**Study designs to be included:** All the randomized controlled trials (RCTs).

**Eligibility criteria:** Any participants who are diagnosed as liver cancer will be considered for inclusion. Suffer from severe hepatic encephalopathy; Or accompanied by the heart and cerebrovascular, digestive system and respiratory system and other important organs of the serious primary diseases; Or psychopaths; Or long-term use of anti-panic drugs will not be included in the review. However, there are no restrictions on age, gender, occupation, race, or education.

**Information sources:** We'll retrieve 8 databases, the electronic databases, including the PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane Library, Web of Science, CBM, CNKI, Wanfang Database, VIP, The retrieval date was established from the database to June 30, 2021. We will search a reference list for identifying published journals, books, conference articles, and gray literature related to this research topic.

**Main outcome(s):** The primary outcomes included completely disappeared of pain level and the sleep quality.

**Additional outcome(s):** The secondary outcomes included mood changes, incidence of adverse reactions, and patient satisfaction.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis:** Two independent authors (XLW and LQZ) will evaluate the bias risk in each included study using Cochrane Collaboration's "Risk of bias" assessment tool. Any disagreement will be resolved via consultation with a third author (MJM). The main items to be considered are as follows: "randomization plan", "group concealment", "blinding method", "incomplete data reporting", "selective outcome report" and "other sources of bias".

**Strategy of data synthesis:** The details of PubMed's search strategy are illustrated in Table 1, including all search terms, while similar search strategies are applied to other electronic databases.

**Subgroup analysis:** If there is significant heterogeneity in the results, we will conduct subgroup analysis (such as characteristics of study participants, treatment duration and different types of treatment), subgroup analysis would be applied to identify the source of heterogeneity.

**Sensitivity analysis:** The sensitivity analysis will be performed to test the stability of the results of meta-analysis by removing the low quality studies.

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

**Keywords:** auricular point pressing, liver cancer, meta-analysis, protocol.

**Contributions of each author:**

Author 1 - Xiangli Wang.

Author 2 - Liuqiao Zhang.

Author 3 - Mengjie Ma.