

INPLASY PROTOCOL

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**Review Stage at time of this
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Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Comparing acupoint catgut embedding and acupuncture therapies in simple obesity: Protocol for a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: How effective are acupoint catgut embedding therapy sole or with other treatment?

Condition being studied: Simple obesity.

Information sources: We will search for trials from the following electronic databases: MEDLINE, EMBASE, the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL), and the Cumulative index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL). Trials will also be searched from three Korean medical databases (Oriental Medicine Advanced Searching Integrated System [OASIS], Science-On and KoreaMed), a Chinese database (Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure [CNKI]) and a Japanese database (CiNii). Ongoing trials, trials will be searched on the Clinical Trials.gov (<http://www.ClinicalTrials.gov>), and the WHO International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) (<http://apps.who.int/trialsearch/>). We will also check the reference lists of reviews and the retrieved articles for additional studies. All bibliographic information and articles will be managed using EndNote (X8.2; Clarivate Analytics, Philadelphia). If the data of study are missing or insufficient, we will contact the corresponding authors by email.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 05 October 2021 and was last updated on 05 October 2021 (registration number INPLASY2021100014).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: How effective are acupoint catgut embedding therapy sole or with other treatment?

Condition being studied: Simple obesity.

METHODS

Participant or population: The population included in the randomized controlled trials (RCTs) must have a diagnosis of obesity

determined using body mass index (BMI) or other valid diagnostic criteria. The included subjects will be no limited by gender or race.

Intervention: In this study, trials that evaluated acupoint catgut embedding therapy alone or the combination with acupuncture therapies such as manual acupuncture, electroacupuncture, auricular acupuncture, warm acupuncture, and chuna, compared with same acupuncture therapy.

Comparator: The control groups will include acupuncture therapy including manual acupuncture, electroacupuncture, auricular acupuncture, warm acupuncture, and Chuna.

Study designs to be included: Randomized controlled trials.

Eligibility criteria: All RCTs on obesity associated with ACE will be included. Literature review, animal studies, and non-randomized controlled trials will be excluded.

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Main outcome(s): The primary outcome will assess BMI, weight, WC, HC, and body fat percentage.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: The risk of bias will be evaluated by independent reviewers using the Cochrane Handbook (V.6.2). The evaluation will consist of the following parameters: random sequence generation, allocation concealment, blinding of participants and personnel, blinding of outcome assessment, incomplete outcome data, selective reporting bias, and other bias. The two reviewers will categorize each study as low risk, high risk, and unclear risk. Disagreements will be resolved by discussion among all authors, and one of the authors will act as an arbiter (Kim SH) for unresolved disagreements.

Strategy of data synthesis: To analyze the data, Review Manager (V.5.4) for windows software provided by Cochrane Collaboration will be used. Before conducting the meta-analysis, the heterogeneity of studies will be checked. Most studies will have continuous data, recorded the post-intervention of mean difference and standard deviation. For dichotomous data, we will use the relative risk (RR). The 95% confidence interval will be calculated as the assessed value.

Subgroup analysis: If the heterogeneity is too high, subgroup analysis will be conducted. The subgroup will be based on the frequency of treatment.

Sensitivity analysis: If there is adequate sample size, high-quality methodology, and low heterogeneity, sensitivity analysis will be performed to assess the robustness of the study.

Language: No language limitation.

Country(ies) involved: China and Korea.

Keywords: acupoint catgut embedding therapy, meta-analysis, obesity, systematic review, thread embedding.

Contributions of each author:

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