INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Review Stage at time of this submission: Risk of bias assessment.

Acupuncture combined with traditional Chinese medicine for dry eye: A systematic review and meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: The aim of this review is to assess the efficacy and safety of acupuncture combined with traditional Chinese medicine for dry eye.

Condition being studied: Relying on the research background of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine.we formed a research team with master's degree and doctor's degree to study evidence-based medicine. According to the hot spots of scientific research, the literature on acupuncture and moxibustion in the treatment of dry eye were retrieved and screened, and the included literature was evaluated, and the data were extracted. The extracted data were analyzed and reliable conclusions were drawn.

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 11 February 2022 and was last updated on 11 February 2022 (registration number INPLASY202220033).

INTRODUCTION

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METHODS

Participant or population: Dry eye patients.

Intervention: Acupuncture combined with traditional Chinese medicine.

Comparator: Western medicine (artificial tears).

Study designs to be included: Inclusion criteria: This study only included clinical randomized controlled or quasi-randomized controlled trials of acupuncture combined with traditional Chinese medicine in the treatment of dry eye , and the subjects were patients with a definite diagnosis of dry eye. Exclusion criteria: literatures on secondary dry eye, literatures whose interventions did not meet the inclusion criteria of this study, conference papers, and graduation thesis.

Eligibility criteria: The gender, age and race of the patients included in this study are not limited.

Information sources: We started by searching three authoritative international journal databases in English: PubMed, EMbase, Cochrane Library. Then search CNKI, Wanfang and VIP databases in Chinese.

Main outcome(s): Tear film BUT and SIT are considered as the primary outcomes.

Additional outcome(s): Symptom score: including specific symptoms such as dryness, foreign body sensation, burning sensation, visual fatigue, photophobia, etc.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: The Cochrane Collaboration's tool for assessing risk of bias in randomised trials will be used independently by two investigators. Any issues or disagreements will be resolved by discussions with a third investigator.

Strategy of data synthesis: This study will be conducted with the use of the RevMan5.3 software. Dichotomous data were expressed as relative risk (RR) and continuous variables as standardized mean difference (SMD) with 95% confidence interval (CI). The random-effects model will be used for the merger analysis when the heterogeneity is moderate, the fixed-effects model will be used when the heterogeneity is low.

Subgroup analysis: If we get enough data, we will conduct subgroup analysis to see if different factors could influence the results.

Sensitivity analysis: We will conduct sensitivity analyses based on study quality.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: Acupuncture;dry eye; traditional Chinese medicine; meta-analysis

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Huiyuan Tan.
Author 2 - Guangyao Li.
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Author 4 - Chuanghui Yang.
Author 5 - Xuelian Ma.
Author 6 - Min Li.