INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Review Stage at time of this submission: **Preliminary searches.**

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

Effectiveness of acupuncture for multiple sclerosis： A protocol for systematic review and meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: The incidence of multiple sclerosis is increasing year by year. Therefore, the efficacy of acupuncture for multiple sclerosis is more and more concerned. The purpose of this systematic evaluation is to accurately evaluate the effectiveness and safety of acupuncture. P : Multiple sclerosis I : Acupuncture therapy C : Placebo O : Effective rate, adverse event rate S : RCT or cohort study.

Information sources: PubMed, Embase, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials , and Web of science. We also included a search of the following databases: ClinicalTrials.gov (https:// clinicaltrials.gov).

INTRODUCTION

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Condition being studied: Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease characterized by white matter inflammatory demyelination in the central nervous system. The clinical manifestations

are focal inflammatory infiltration, demyelination and axonal injury. It has the characteristics of multiple space and time, easy recurrence and high disability rate. According to epidemiological statistics, the prevalence of MS in North America and Europe is 108 ~ 140 / 100 000, the prevalence of MS in Asia is 2.2 / 100 000. Modern medicine for the pathogenesis of the disease is not clear, the treatment with a large number of hormones, immunosuppressants, plasma exchange, interferon and other symptomatic support treatment, the adverse reactions are common. Current studies have shown that acupuncture, as a traditional health therapy, plays an increasingly important role in the treatment of this disease. Although there are some original literatures on acupuncture treatment of multiple sclerosis, the meta-analysis of acupuncture treatment of multiple sclerosis is still relatively blank.

METHODS

Participant or population: Multiple sclerosis.

Intervention: Acupuncture therapy.

Comparator: Placebo.

Study designs to be included: RCT or cohort study.

Eligibility criteria: Inclusion criteria: 1. Research types must be randomized controlled trials or cohort studies. 2. Participants must be older than eighteen years. Exclusion criteria : 1. Small sample size. 2. Other related treatment was given prior to the intervention.

Information sources: PubMed, Embase, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials , and Web of science. We also included a search of the following databases: ClinicalTrials.gov (https://clinicaltrials.gov).

Main outcome(s): Effective rate.

Additional outcome(s): Adverse events.

Data management: Endnote.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Cochrane tool.

Strategy of data synthesis: When heterogeneity exists, random effects are selected to merge data ; when there is no heterogeneity, choose fixed effect merge data.

Subgroup analysis: Subgroup studies were conducted according to age, marital status, economic environment and other factors of patients.

Sensitivity analysis: After deleting any one of them, the merging results of the literature are not significantly different from those without deletion, which means that the sensitivity analysis is passed.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: Acupuncture; Multiple sclerosis.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Hong Guan.
Author 2 - Jingyu Wang.
Author 3 - ongzheng Zhu.