INPLASY PROTOCOL

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Corresponding author:
Tieming Ma

lnzymtm@163.com

Author Affiliation:
Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

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None declared.

Acupoint application for the treatment of COPD in stable stage: an overview of systematic review of randomized controlled trials

You, T[1]; Zhang, H[2]; Ma, T[3]; Li, J[4].

Review question / Objective: **The aim of this research is to re-evaluate the systematic review (SR) of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of acupoint application (AA) in the treatment of COPD in stable stage, so as to provide the latest and comprehensive evidence-based proofs for clinical decision-making.**
Condition being studied: **With the publication of RCTs of COPD in stable stage treated by AA increasing year by year, the SRs combining these clinical evidence were subsequently published.However, due to the limitations of the original study, the methodological quality and reporting quality of the SRs are uneven, which makes the results of data synthesis difficult to provide reliable evidence for clinical decision-making.**

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 01 April 2022 and was last updated on 01 April 2022 (registration number INPLASY202240003).

INTRODUCTION

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quality and reporting quality of the SRs are uneven, which makes the results of data synthesis difficult to provide reliable evidence for clinical decision-making.

METHODS

Participant or population: COPD patients were diagnosed by clearly defined or recognized diagnostic criteria, and were in stable stage.

Intervention: The treatment group was treated with AA alone or combined with other intervention measures (placebo, routine treatment of western medicine, intervention measures of TCM, intervention measures of integrated TCM and western medicine, etc.). There will be no restrictions on Chinese medicine composition, acupoint selection, treatment frequency and treatment course.

Comparator: The control group was treated with placebo, no treatment or other non AA interventions.

Study designs to be included: Systematic review of randomized controlled trials.

Eligibility criteria: All the SRs that meet the including standards, with no language restrictions and publication time.

Information sources: SRs will be searched systematically in CNKI, VIP database, Wanfang database, Sinomed, Pubmed, Cochrane Library and web of science. PROSPERO and INPLASY will also be searched to track the SRs which have been completed but unpublished. Grey literature will be searched to avoid omission.

Main outcome(s): Clinical effective rate, TCM symptom score, improvement of symptoms, pulmonary function, blood gas analysis, number of acute exacerbations, quality of life, activity ability, inflammatory indicators, immune function, adverse reactions (related to AA), etc.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Two researchers independently will use AMSTAR-2, ROBIS and PRISMA2020 to evaluate the methodological quality, risk of bias and reporting quality of SRs included. GRADE method will be used to rate the quality of evidence.

Strategy of data synthesis: For the meta-analysis results of each outcome, binary data will be displayed by OR or RR with 95% confidence interval, and the continuous data will by WMD or SMD with 95% confidence interval.

Subgroup analysis: None.

Sensitivity analysis: None.

Country(ies) involved: China.

Keywords: acupoint application; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease: systematic review; overview of systematic review; evidence- based medicine.

Contributions of each author:
Author 1 - Tianyi You.
Author 2 - Haoyang Zhang.
Author 3 - Tieming Ma.
Author 4 - Jiquan Li.