

INPLASY PROTOCOL

To cite: Choi et al. The effectiveness and safety of Acupuncture for Herpes Zoster: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Inplasy protocol 2022100020. doi: 10.37766/inplasy2022.10.0020

Received: 04 October 2022

Published: 04 October 2022

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Support: None.

Review Stage at time of this submission: The review has not yet started.

Conflicts of interest:
None declared.

The effectiveness and safety of Acupuncture for Herpes Zoster: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

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Review question / Objective: This study aims to systematically review and investigate its effectiveness and safety of acupuncture for Herpes zoster (HZ).

Condition being studied: The most representative treatment of HZ is medication, however there are previous reports about its limitation. Acupuncture has been known to have the analgesic effect in several type of pain model.

Information sources: Searches will be performed until October 2022. We will use the following data bases: MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), CiNii, J- STAGE, KoreaMed, Korean Medical Database, Korean Studies Information Service System (KISS), National Digital Science Library (NDSL), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI), and Oriental Medicine Advanced Searching Integrated System (OASIS).

INPLASY registration number: This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 04 October 2022 and was last updated on 04 October 2022 (registration number INPLASY2022100020).

INTRODUCTION

Review question / Objective: This study aims to systematically review and investigate its effectiveness and safety of acupuncture for Herpes zoster (HZ).

Rationale: Korean medicine, especially acupuncture, has been reported to have

meaningful therapeutic effects and has the possibility of alternative options for HZ, through several types of studies. But there is no published systematic review including multinational studies.

Condition being studied: The most representative treatment of HZ is medication, however there are previous

reports about its limitation. Acupuncture has been known to have the analgesic effect in several type of pain model.

METHODS

Search strategy: We will search clinical trials about acupuncture treatments on HZ in various electronic databases, manual research, and contacting authors.

Participant or population: Patients who is dianosed as HZ.

Intervention: Acupuncture.

Comparator: Other conservative treatments (such as medicine) for HZ.

Study designs to be included: Randomized controlled trial.

Eligibility criteria: We will only include randominzed controlled trials (RCTs). Non-RCTs and uncontrolled clinical trials will be excluded.

Information sources: Searches will be performed until October 2022. We will use the following data bases: MEDLINE, Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), CiNii, J-STAGE, KoreaMed, Korean Medical Database, Korean Studies Information Service System (KISS), National Digital Science Library (NDSL), Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI), and Oriental Medicine Advanced Searching Integrated System (OASIS).

Main outcome(s): Pain scale (Visual Analogue Scale, Numerical Rating Scale) and effective rate

Additional outcome(s): Scales related to neuropathic pain (such as Neuropathic Pain Questionnaire) and quality of life (such as EuroQoL-5Dimention), period of symptom relief, and adverse events.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis: Two reviewers will independently assess the risk of bias using the "Risk of Bias" tool from the Cochrane Collaboration. This

consists seven areas: sequence generation, assignment concealment, blinding participants and investigators, blinding outcome raters, incomplete outcome data, selective outcome reporting, and other biases. The risk of bias for each domain is assessed as "low risk", "high risk", or "ambiguous risk".

Strategy of data synthesis: Review Manager software for Windows will be use to perform a meta-analysis and to calculate the RR or SMD (Version 5.3; Copenhagen; The Nordic Cochrane Center, The Cochrane Collaboration, 2014). Calculate pooled estimates of effect sizes using either a random effects model or a fixed effects model with 95% CI.

Subgroup analysis: If possible.

Sensitivity analysis: We will perform a sensitivity analysis to test the robustness of study finding.

Language restriction: There are no restrictions on language.

Country(ies) involved: Republic of Korea.

Keywords: Herpes zoster, acupuncture, systematic review, meta-analysis.

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