

# INPLASY

## Effects of Acupuncture on Pain and Disability after Lumbar Spine Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of randomized controlled trials

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### ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Support** - No funding sources or sponsors.

**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Completed but not published.

**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.

**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY202490060

**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 16 September 2024 and was last updated on 16 September 2024.

### INTRODUCTION

**Review question / Objective** The current study investigated the effects of acupuncture on postoperative pain and disability in patients receiving lumbar spine surgery by conducting a systematic review and meta-analysis. Pain and disability frequently accompany recovery from lumbar spine surgery.

I:acupuncture

C:comparison group

O:pain, disability

S:randomized controlled trial.

**Condition being studied** Although numerous studies have revealed that acupuncture interventions can reduce pain in postoperative patients, a comprehensive review of evidence regarding the effectiveness of acupuncture interventions on such patients is required.

### METHODS

**Participant or population** P:lumbar surgery / lumbar operation / vertebra surgery / spinal surgery / spine surgery / back surgery.

**Intervention** I:acupuncture.

**Comparator** C:comparison group.

**Study designs to be included** Randomized controlled trial.

**Eligibility criteria** Acupuncture-related articles in Chinese and English were selected based on the study inclusion (lumbar surgery, acupuncture) and exclusion criteria (non-RCTs, non-Chinese or English papers).

**Information sources** Electronic literature search of 12 databases: MEDLINE, PubMed, Cochrane

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Library, EBSCO ASC, CINAHL PLUS with Full Text, Embase, Web of Science, PsycINFO, Wangfang Data, National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, and Airiti Library.

**Main outcome(s)** Pain: Visual Analogue Scale, VAS  
Disability: Japanese Orthopedic Association Scores, JOAS; Oswestry Disability Index, ODI.

**Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis**  
Modified Jadad Scale (MJS); Cochrane risk of bias tool, RoB 2.0.

**Strategy of data synthesis** Software: Comprehensive Meta-Analysis Version 3.0 (CMA 3.0) statistical analysis by standardized mean difference (SMD) from mean and standard deviation in every article.

**Subgroup analysis** A=acupuncture; EA=electro-acupuncture.

**Sensitivity analysis** One paper removal.

**Language restriction** In Chinese and English.

**Country(ies) involved** Taiwan (Fooyin University, Kaohsiung, Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital, Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, New Taipei City, & School of Post-baccalaureate Chinese Medicine, Tzu Chi University, Yuanpei University of Medical Technology, Hsinchu, and Kaohsiung).

**Keywords** acupuncture, post-lumbar spine surgery, pain, disability.

#### **Contributions of each author**

Author 1 - Tsai-Wen Chung - The author read, provided feedback and the strategies of literature searching, bias assessment.

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Author 2 - Hsien-Chang Wu - The author provided statistical expertise, and expert opinions of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

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Author 3 - Hui-Ching Chien - The author contributed to the development of the selection criteria, and the risk of bias assessment strategy.

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Author 4 - Ching-Hsiu Chen - Author 4 (Correspondence author) drafted the manuscript and provided feedback and approved the final manuscript.

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