PEER REVIEW HISTORY

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ARTICLE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE (PROVISIONAL)</th>
<th>Acupuncture for psoriasis: protocol for a systematic review</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTHORS</td>
<td>Wang, Lei; Yang, Haoyu; Li, Nuo; WANG, Weiming; Bai, Yanping</td>
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VERSION 1 - REVIEW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEWER</th>
<th>Chuanjian Lu</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou, Guangdong, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>REVIEW RETURNED</td>
<td>25-Jan-2015</td>
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GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The restriction of participants should be considered due to the efficacy and safety may vary across different types of psoriasis.
2. Outcome focused should be specified clearly, which is closely associated with the implementation for clinical practice or further research, based on the evidence provided by your systematic review.
3. In terms of continuous data pooling, the selection of MD and SMD should be noted and clarified.
4. How can you deal with the language bias across the studies published in English and Chinese?
5. The version of Revman software should be updated in terms of technique issue.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>REVIEWER</th>
<th>Jianzhong Zhang</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peking University People's Hospital, Beijing, China</td>
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<tr>
<td>REVIEW RETURNED</td>
<td>02-Feb-2015</td>
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GENERAL COMMENTS

This is a systematic review for the effectiveness and safety of acupuncture for psoriasis, which is an interesting issue. However, I have some questions here.

Line 7, p2: "assess the effects and safety" In fact, the authors discuss the EFFECTIVENESS and safety of acupuncture for psoriasis in the manuscript. So I think the sentence should be "assess the effectiveness and safety". Similarly in line 3, p3 and line 21, p5.

Line 37, p6: "safety as measured by" Here, "(iii)" should be added.

In the electronic databases, why do not use Pubmed Medline?

In the "Electronic searches", the authors listed several keywords, but why do not use "acupuncture"?
Comment1: The restriction of participants should be considered due to the efficacy and safety may vary across different types of psoriasis.
Response: Thank you for this good suggestion, we had also noticed this problem. However, due to the limited number of studies related to acupuncture for psoriasis, we think it is not the right time to evaluate the effectiveness of acupuncture for particular types of psoriasis. Therefore, we intend to have no limitation on the types of psoriasis treated, as we believe this will give a more complete and more comprehensive search on acupuncture for psoriasis. We hope that someday we can do more accurate work as per the reviewer’s proposal.

Comment2: Outcome focused should be specified clearly, which is closely associated with the implementation for clinical practice or further research, based on the evidence provided by your systematic review.
Response: Thank you for your suggestion, we also wanted to specify the outcome clearly at first. However, when we finished the pre-search, we found that the measurement tools reflecting the same outcome were different between some probable eligible articles. We considered that the review would be incomplete if we limited the included studies to those using the same outcome measurement tool.

Comment3: In terms of continuous data pooling, the selection of MD and SMD should be noted and clarified.
Response: We agree that this is an important issue, and we have mentioned this in ‘For continuous outcomes, the standard mean difference (SMD) with 95% CI will be used’ in the section titled ‘Measure of treatment effect’ (line 4-5, page 9).

Comment4: How can you deal with the language bias across the studies published in English and Chinese?
Response: Thank you for raising this important point. We had considered that a language bias would occur, because we will search only Chinese and English medical databases. However, we had not considered the potential language bias across the studies published in English and Chinese. We thought that we had minimized this language bias through a planned sensitivity analysis (if the eligible studies published in Chinese or English in the meta-analysis are dubious because they do not contain full details or for other reasons, we will perform the meta-analysis only including those that are definitely known to be eligible). We are including studies published in two languages (English or Chinese) to minimize the language bias, and we think that the language bias may not be as important as the sensitivity analysis to exclude low-quality studies.

Comment5: The version of Revman software should be updated in terms of technique issue.
Response: Thank you for your suggestion, we have updated it in the revised manuscript and will perform the systematic review using the latest version.

Comment 1: Line 7, p2: “assess the effects and safety” In fact, the authors discuss the EFFECTIVENESS and safety of acupuncture for psoriasis in the manuscript. So I think the sentence should be “assess the effectiveness and safety”. Similarly in line 3, p3 and line 21, p5.
Response: Thank you for your suggestion, we have corrected this in the revised manuscript.

Comment 2: Line 37, p6: “safety as measured by” Here, “(iii)” should be added.
Response: Thank you for pointing this out, we have corrected it in the revised manuscript.

Comment 3: In the electronic databases, why do not use Pubmed Medline?
Response: Thank you for your advice, we used Ovid Medline as a search database because of personal habit. We think there are subtle distinctions between Pubmed Medline and Ovid Medline.

Comment 4: In the “Electronic searches”, the authors listed several keywords, but why do not use
"acupuncture"?
Response: Thank you for this suggestion, we have added ‘acupuncture’ as a search term and adjusted the search strategy in Table 1.

VERSION 2 – REVIEW

| REVIEWER | Chuanjian LU  
| Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, China |
| REVIEW RETURNED | 24-Mar-2015 |

| GENERAL COMMENTS | ‘Effectiveness’ is not completely consistent with ‘efficacy’. Please clarify this will be achievable. |

VERSION 2 – AUTHOR RESPONSE

Reviewer comments
Please state any competing interests or state 'None declared': None declared
Please leave your comments for the authors below
Effectiveness’ is not completely consistent with ‘efficacy’. Please clarify this will be achievable.
Response: Thank you for raising this important point. In this review, we planned to assess the efficacy of acupuncture for psoriasis using the comparison between ‘acupuncture and no treatment (if available), placebo or sham treatment’, and assess the effectiveness using the comparison between ‘acupuncture adjunctive to drug therapy versus the same drug therapy alone’, and the comparison between ‘acupuncture adjunctive to other treatment versus placebo or sham treatment adjunctive to other treatment’.
Acupuncture for psoriasis: protocol for a systematic review

Lei Wang, Haoyu Yang, Nuo Li, Weiming Wang and Yanping Bai

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