

## **Supplement 1. Search strategy**

### **MEDLINE search strategy**

#### **COPD search**

1. Lung Diseases, Obstructive/
2. exp Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive/
3. emphysema\$.mp.
4. (chronic\$ adj3 bronchiti\$).mp.
5. (obstruct\$ adj3 (pulmonary or lung\$ or airway\$ or airflow\$ or bronch\$ or respirat\$)).mp.
6. COPD.mp.
7. COAD.mp.
8. COBD.mp.
9. AECB.mp.
10. or/1-9

#### **Acupuncture search**

1. exp Acupuncture Therapy/
2. exp Medicine, East Asian Traditional/
3. Acupuncture
4. (acupuncture or acupressure or acupoint\* or electroacupuncture or electro-acupuncture or meridian\* or moxibust\* or “traditional chinese medicine” or “traditional oriental medicine”).mp. [mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word]
5. 4 or 1 or 3 or 2

#### **Filter to identify RCTs**

1. exp “clinical trial [publication type]”/
2. (randomised or randomised).ab,ti.
3. placebo.ab,ti.
4. dt.fs.
5. randomly.ab,ti.
6. trial.ab,ti.
7. groups.ab,ti.
8. or/1-7
9. Animals/
10. Humans/
11. 9 not (9 and 10)
12. 8 not 11

The MEDLINE strategy and RCT filter are adapted to identify trials in other electronic databases

### **Index Terms**

#### **Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)**

Acupuncture Therapy [\*methods]; Pulmonary Disease, Chronic Obstructive [\*therapy];

Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic

#### **MeSH check words**

Humans

**Supplement 2. Summary of randomized clinical studies of acupuncture for COPD.**

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<b>First author (year) Country</b>	<b>Patients No. (M/F); Age, mean (I/C); Diagnosis; Duration of diseases;</b>	<b>Intervention group (Regime)</b>	<b>Control group (Regime)</b>	<b>Duration of treatment (total times)</b>	<b>Main outcomes</b>	<b>Intergroup differences</b>	<b>Adverse events</b>
Study 1							
Study 2							
Study 3							
.....							

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COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

**Supplement 3. Summarized acupuncture interventions in the included studies.**

<b>First author (year)</b>	<b>Acupuncture Method (Fixed/ Partially Individualized/ Individualized)<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Treatment Rationale</b>	<b>Regimen</b>	<b>Acupuncture Points<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Response Sought<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Co-interventions</b>
Study 1						
Study 2						
Study 3						
.....						

1. Acupuncture method was classified into 3 categories on the basis of the levels of individualization: “fixed” means all patients receive the same treatment at all sessions, “partially individualized” means using a fixed set of points to be combined with a set of points to be used flexibly, and “individualized” means each patient receives a unique and evolving diagnosis and treatment.

2. Acupuncture point SI3 refers to 3rd point of small intestine meridian and extra points have different nomenclature (eg, Ex-UE7 means 7th extra point in upper extremity). Ashi points refer to local pain points.

3. De-qi means acupuncture-evoked specific sensations such as soreness, numbness, heaviness, and distention at the site of needle placement, and these sensations may spread to other parts of the body.

**Supplement 4. Risk of bias in included RCTs.**

First author (year) Country	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of participants and personnel	Blinding of outcome assessors	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting	Other sources of bias
Study 1							
Study 2							
Study 3							
.....							

L<sup>o</sup> indicated a low risk of bias; ‘U’ indicated that the risk of bias is uncertain; ‘H’ indicated a high risk of bias