

## Search strategy for **MEDLINE**

1. randomized controlled trial.pt.
2. controlled clinical trial.pt.
3. (randomized or randomised).ab.
4. placebo.ab.
5. randomly.ab.
6. trial.ab.
7. groups.ab.
8. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
9. exp constipation/
10. functional constipation.ab,ti.
11. primary constipation.ab,ti.
12. chronic constipation.ab,ti.
13. idiopathic constipation.ab,ti.
14. slow transit constipation.ab,ti.
15. (obstipation or "fecal impaction" or astriction or costiveness or coprostasis).ab,ti.
16. 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15
17. exp acupuncture therapy/
18. exp acupuncture/
19. (needling or needle or prod or pinprick or pricking).ab,ti.
20. exp acupuncture points/
21. (acupunctur\* or acupoint or "acupoint application" or "point application" or "external application therapy" or "acupoint inject\*" or "point inject\*" or "inject\* to point" or "inject\* to acupoint").ab,ti.
22. exp electroacupuncture/
23. (electroacupunctur\* or acusector\* or "thermoelectric needle" or electro-acupunctur\*).ab,ti.
24. exp auriculotherapy/
25. exp acupuncture, ear/
26. (otopoint\* or "ear hole planted seeds" or "ear buried seeds" or auricular\*).ab,ti.
27. exp moxibustion/
28. moxa\*.ab,ti.
29. exp acupressure/
30. exp meridians/
31. (embedd\* or "catgut implantation at acupoint\*" or "acupoint catgut embedd\*" or "catgut embedd\* therap\*").ab,ti.
32. 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31
33. 8 and 16
34. 32 and 33

This search strategy was modified to be suitable for other databases.