

Supplemental material 3

Table A. Major drawback of application and editorial independence domain

Variable	N (%)
<i>Consider resources utilization</i>	
Reported	52 (39.1)
Not reported	81 (60.9)
<i>Considered patients' values and preferences</i>	
Explicitly reported with details	14 (10.5)
Considered without details	58 (43.6)
Not reported	61 (45.9)
<i>Reporting conflicts of interest</i>	
Reported with details	10 (7.5)
Reported without details	62 (46.6)
Not reported	61 (45.9)

Table B. The rationale for acupuncture recommendations

Factors*	N (%)			P
	Comprehensive CPGs	T&CM CPGs	Acupuncture-specific CPGs	
Treatment effect	59(52.2)	30(45.5)	197(77.6)	
Certainty of evidence	41(36.3)	0(0.0)	1(0.4)	
Patients' values and preferences	10(8.8)	1(1.5)	27(10.6)	<0.001
Cost	2(1.8)	0(0.0)	24(9.4)	
Feasibility	5(4.4)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	

* One recommendation can contribute to more than one category.

CPG: clinical practice guidelines, T&CM: traditional and complementary medicine.

Table C. Patient characteristics in acupuncture recommendations

Factors	N (%)			P
	Comprehensive CPGs	T&CM CPGs	Acupuncture-specific CPGs	
<i>The severity of the disease</i>				
Reported	5(4.4)	0(0.0)	11(4.3)	0.274
Not reported	108(95.6)	66(100.0)	243(95.7)	

Stage of the disease

Reported	17(15.0)	3(4.5)	101(39.8)	<0.001
Not reported	96(85.0)	63(95.5)	153(60.2)	

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Table D. Comparators in acupuncture recommendations

Comparators in acupuncture recommendations*	N (%)			P
	Comprehensive CPGs	T & CM CPGs	Acupuncture-specific CPGs	
Conventional medicine	5(4.4)	8(12.1)	32(12.6)	<0.001
Traditional Chinese medicine	0(0.0)	2(3.0)	4(1.6)	
Non-pharmacological therapy	8(7.1)	22(33.3)	25(9.8)	
No acupuncture	12(10.6)	1(1.5)	2(0.8)	
Not reported	88(77.9)	34(51.5)	201(79.1)	

* One recommendation can contribute to more than one category.

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Table E. Outcome summarized to inform recommendations

Outcome summarized in recommendations *	N (%)			P
	Comprehensive CPGs	T & CM CPGs	Acupuncture-specific CPGs	
Symptoms	63(55.8)	26(39.4)	164(64.6)	<0.001
Function	20(17.7)	9(13.6)	57(22.4)	
Surrogate outcomes	6(5.3)	0(0.0)	6(2.4)	
Quality of Life	12(10.6)	0(0.0)	17(6.7)	
Mortality	1(0.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	
Major morbid events	1(0.9)	0(0.0)	0(0.0)	
Not reported	43(38.1)	38(57.6)	49(19.3)	

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