

## PROSPERO International prospective register of systematic reviews

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### Efficacy of acupuncture/moxibustion and acupressure for stroke prevention: a systematic review

*David Sibbritt, Jon Adams, Caleb Ferguson, Jane Frawley, Romy Lauche, Wenbo Peng*

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#### Citation

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#### Review question(s)

To identify and summarise the evidence of acupuncture/moxibustion and acupressure interventions for the prevention of stroke for those people at greatest risk of stroke.

#### Searches

Sources: MEDLINE, CINAHL/EBSCO, Scopus, Google Scholar, and Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.

Search terms relevant to 'acupuncture', 'moxibustion', and 'acupressure' as well as terms regarding a range of 'stroke risk factors' including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, irregular pulse, transient ischaemic attack, diabetes, and obesity.

Restrictions: peer-reviewed English language journal articles published from 1996 to 2016.

#### Types of study to be included

Randomised controlled trials and cross-over studies.

#### Condition or domain being studied

Stroke prevention;

Hypertension (including mild level hypertension);

Diabetes (including impaired glucose tolerance);

Hypercholesterolemia;

Overweight/Obesity;

Atrial fibrillation;

Transient ischaemic attack.

#### Participants/ population

General population for stroke prevention and those with increased stroke risk due to hypertension, diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, overweight or obesity, atrial fibrillation, and/or transient ischaemic attack.

#### Intervention(s), exposure(s)

Inclusion criteria: any acupuncture, moxibustion, acupressure interventions. There is no limitation on the forms of acupuncture, moxibustion, and acupressure (e.g. auricular acupuncture, electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture, acupoint stimulation) and the frequency and duration of the intervention.

#### Comparator(s)/ control

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Any comparator(s)/control.

## **Outcome(s)**

### **Primary outcomes**

1. Stroke incidence rate for stroke prevention trials.
2. Blood pressure for hypertension trials.
3. Triglycerides and total/LDL/HDL cholesterol for hypercholesterolemia trials.
4. Weight, body mass index, waist/hip circumference, and body fat for overweight/obesity trials.
5. Insulin, fasting or postprandial blood glucose, HbA1c and the HOMA index for diabetes trials.
6. Irregular pulse for atrial fibrillation trials.
7. Transient ischaemic attack trials.
8. Safety for all trials.

### **Secondary outcomes**

None.

## **Data extraction, (selection and coding)**

Titles and abstracts of all citations via initial search will be imported to Endnote and duplicates will be removed. Two authors will independently screen all these information to identify articles meeting the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Abstracts mentioning the key words will be selected for full-text review. All unclear studies will be assessed by a third author. In addition, one author will screen the reference lists of papers included in this systematic review paper.

Two authors will independently extract data into a pre-determined data extraction form. Differences in data extraction and interpretation will be resolved through discussion amongst all authors. The form will include information on country/year, sample characteristics, intervention, outcome measure(s), results, limitations, and side effects.

## **Risk of bias (quality) assessment**

Two authors will independently assess risk of bias using the Cochrane Risk of Bias Tool for selection bias (random sequence generation and allocation concealment), performance bias (blinding of participants and personnel), detection bias (blinding of outcome assessment), attrition bias (incomplete outcome data), reporting bias (selective outcome reporting), and other sources of bias. Disagreements will be resolved through discussion with a third author.

The risk of bias assessment will be used to conduct sensitivity analyses to identify the level (high/low/unclear) of bias of each included study.

## **Strategy for data synthesis**

The narrative (descriptive) synthesis will be undertaken on eligible studies.

## **Analysis of subgroups or subsets**

None is planned.

## **Dissemination plans**

Publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

## **Contact details for further information**

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**Organisational affiliation of the review**

None.

**Review team**

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**Anticipated or actual start date**

01 February 2017

**Anticipated completion date**

30 June 2017

**Funding sources/sponsors**

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**Conflicts of interest**

None known

**Language**

English

**Country**

Australia

**Subject index terms status**

Subject indexing assigned by CRD

**Subject index terms**

Acupressure; Acupuncture; Acupuncture Therapy; Humans; Moxibustion; Stroke

**Stage of review**

Ongoing

**Date of registration in PROSPERO**

29 March 2017

**Date of publication of this revision**

29 March 2017

**Stage of review at time of this submission**

Preliminary searches  
Piloting of the study selection process  
Formal screening of search results against eligibility criteria  
Data extraction  
Risk of bias (quality) assessment  
Data analysis

**Started**

Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes

**Completed**

Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
No  
No  
No

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