

Supplementary File 1 The specific search strategy for each database

Medline

1. cerebral infarction/ OR cerebral ischemia/ OR ischemic stroke/ OR ischemic infarction/ OR ischaemic stroke/ OR ischaemic infarction/ OR cerebral ischaemia/ OR cerebral ischaemia/reperfusion OR Cerebral Ischemia-Reperfusion/ OR Cerebral ischemia/reperfusion injury/cerebrovascular disorders/ OR basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease/ OR brain ischemia/ OR carotid artery diseases/ OR carotid artery thrombosis/ OR cerebrovascular accident/ OR exp brain infarction/ OR exp hypoxia-ischemia, brain/ OR cerebral arterial diseases/ OR exp "intracranial embolism and thrombosis"/
2. ((brain or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or vertebrobasil\$ or hemispher\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebral or infratentorial or supratentorial or middle cerebr\$ or mca\$ or anterior circulation) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or oclus\$ or hypoxi\$)).tw.
3. (isch?emi\$ adj6 (stroke\$ or apoplex\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or cerebrovasc\$ or cva or attack\$)).tw.
4. 1 or 2 or 3
5. acupuncture/ or acupuncture therapy/ or acupuncture analgesia/ or acupuncture, ear/ or electroacupuncture/ or meridians/ or acupuncture points/ or trigger points/
6. (acupuncture\$ or electroacupuncture or electro-acupuncture or acupoint\$ or meridians or needling).tw.
7. ((meridian or non-meridian or trigger) adj10 point\$).tw.
8. 5 or 6 or 7
9. exp Neuronal Plasticity/ or exp neurogenesis/
10. (Neural Plasticity or Plasticity, Neuronal or Neuronal Plasticities or Plasticities, Neuronal or Synaptic Plasticity or Plasticities, Synaptic or Plasticity, Synaptic or Synaptic Plasticities or Neuroplasticity or Neuroplasticities or Neural Plasticity or Neural Plasticities or Plasticities, Neural or Plasticity, Neural or Dendritic Arborization or Neuronal Arborization or Synaptic Pruning\$ or Neuronal Pruning or Dendritic Pruning or Axon Pruning\$ or Pruning, Axon or Neuronal Remodeling\$ or Neuronal Network Remodeling\$ or Network Remodeling, Neuronal or Remodeling\$, Neuronal Network or neurogenesis or neural regeneration or neurotization or "New neurons" or neurotrophin or neurotrophic factor or neurotransmitter or "NTFs" or "BDNF" or "VEGF" or "NT-3" or "NT-4" or "NT-5" or "GDNF" or "bFGF" or "EGF" or "p75NTR").mp.
11. 9 or 10
12. 4 and 8 and 11

Embase

1. cerebrovascular disorders/ or basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease/ or brain ischemia/ or carotid artery diseases/ or carotid artery thrombosis/ or cerebrovascular accident/ or exp brain

infarction/ or exp hypoxia-ischemia, brain/ or cerebral arterial diseases/ or exp "intracranial embolism and thrombosis"/

2. ((brain or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or vertebrobasil\$ or hemispher\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebral or infratentorial or supratentorial or middle cerebr\$ or mca\$ or anterior circulation) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or occlus\$ or hypoxi\$)).tw.

3. (isch?emi\$ adj6 (stroke\$ or apoplex\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or cerebrovasc\$ or cva or attack\$)).tw.

4. 1 or 2 or 3

5. acupuncture/ or acupuncture therapy/ or acupuncture analgesia/ or acupuncture, ear/ or electroacupuncture/ or meridians/ or acupuncture points/ or trigger points/

6. (acupuncture\$ or electroacupuncture or electro-acupuncture or acupoint\$ or meridians or needling).tw.

7. ((meridian or non-meridian or trigger) adj10 point\$).tw.

8. 5 or 6 or 7

9. exp Neuronal Plasticity/ or exp neurogenesis/

10. (Neural Plasticity or Plasticity, Neuronal or Neuronal Plasticities or Plasticities, Neuronal or Synaptic Plasticity or Plasticities, Synaptic or Plasticity, Synaptic or Synaptic Plasticities or Neuroplasticity or Neuroplasticities or Neural Plasticity or Neural Plasticities or Plasticities, Neural or Plasticity, Neural or Dendritic Arborization or Neuronal Arborization or Synaptic Pruning\$ or Neuronal Pruning or Dendritic Pruning or Axon Pruning\$ or Pruning, Axon or Neuronal Remodeling\$ or Neuronal Network Remodeling\$ or Network Remodeling, Neuronal or Remodeling\$, Neuronal Network or neurogenesis or neural regeneration or neurotization or "New neurons" or neurotrophin or neurotrophic factor or neurotransmitter or "NTFs" or "BDNF" or "VEGF" or "NT-3" or "NT-4" or "NT-5" or "GDNF" or "bFGF" or "EGF" or "p75NTR").mp.

11. 9 or 10

12. 4 and 8 and 11

Cochrane library

#1 MeSH descriptor: [Brain Ischemia] explode all trees

#2 (isch*mi* near/6 (stroke* or apoplex* or cerebral next vasc* or cerebrovasc* or cva or attack*)):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)

#3 ((brain or cerebr* or cerebell* or vertebrobasil* or hemispher* or intracran* or intracerebral or infratentorial or supratentorial or middle next cerebr* or mca* or "anterior circulation") near/5 (isch*mi* or infarct* or thrombo* or emboli* or occlus* or hypoxi*)):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)

#4 #1 or #2 or #3

#5 MeSH descriptor: [Acupuncture] explode all trees

#6 ((acupuncture or acupuncture therapy or acupuncture analgesia or acupuncture, ear or electroacupuncture or meridians or acupuncture points or trigger points)):ti,ab,kw (Word variations

have been searched)

#7 ((acupuncture* or electroacupuncture or "electro-acupuncture" or acupoint* or meridians or needling)):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)

#8 (((meridian or non-meridian or trigger) near/10 point*)):ti,ab,kw (Word variations have been searched)

#9 #5 or #6 or #7 or #8

#10 MeSH descriptor: [Neuronal Plasticity] explode all trees

#11 MeSH descriptor: [Neurogenesis] explode all trees

#12 (Neural Plasticity or Plasticity, Neuronal or Neuronal Plasticities or Plasticities, Neuronal or Synaptic Plasticity or Plasticities, Synaptic or Plasticity, Synaptic or Synaptic Plasticities or Neuroplasticity or Neuroplasticities or Neural Plasticity or Neural Plasticities or Plasticities, Neural or Plasticity, Neural or Dendritic Arborization or Neuronal Arborization or Synaptic Pruning\$ or Neuronal Pruning or Dendritic Pruning or Axon Pruning\$ or Pruning, Axon or Neuronal Remodeling\$ or Neuronal Network Remodeling\$ or Network Remodeling, Neuronal or Remodeling\$, Neuronal Network or neurogenesis or neural regeneration or neurotization or "New neurons" or neurotrophin or neurotrophic factor or neurotransmitter or "NTFs" or "BDNF" or "VEGF" or "NT-3" or "NT-4" or "NT-5" or "GDNF" or "bFGF" or "EGF" or "p75NTR")

#13 #10 or #11 or #12

#14 #4 and #9 and #13

CNKI

(SU='中风' OR SU='卒中' OR SU='脑梗死' OR SU='脑梗塞' OR SU='脑栓塞' OR SU='脑缺血' OR SU='脑缺血再灌注' OR SU='脑血管') AND (SU='针灸' OR SU='针刺' OR SU='电针' OR SU='头针' OR SU='毫针' OR SU='火针' OR SU='皮内针' OR SU='耳针' OR SU='针法' OR SU='圆利针' OR SU='手捻针' OR SU='头皮针' OR SU='穴位' OR SU='体针' OR SU='温针' OR SU='长针' OR SU='巨针' OR SU='锋针' OR SU='铍针' OR SU='大针') AND (SU='神经可塑性' OR SU='脑可塑性' OR SU='突触可塑性' OR SU='神经再生' OR SU='再生' OR SU='突触再生' OR SU='轴突再生' OR SU='神经网络再生' OR SU='神经生长因子' OR SU='神经递质' OR SU='NTFs' OR SU='BDNF' OR SU='VEGF' OR SU='NT-3' OR SU='NT-4' OR SU='GDNF' OR SU='bFGF' OR SU='EGF' OR SU='p75NTR')

VIP

(U=中风+U=卒中+U=脑血管+U=脑梗塞+U=脑梗死+U=脑血栓+U=脑栓塞+U=脑血管+U=脑缺血+U=脑缺血再灌注)* (U=针灸+U=针刺+U=电针+U=针法+U=刺法+U=头针+U=火针+U=温针+U=体针+U=毫针)* (U=神经可塑性+U=脑可塑性+U=突触可塑性+U=神经再生+U=再生+U=突触再生+U=轴突再生+U=神经网络再生+U=神经生长因子+U=神经递质+U="NTFs"+U="BDNF"+U="VEGF"+U="NT-3"+U="NT-4"+U="GDNF"+U="bFGF"+U="EGF"+U="p75NTR")

Wangfang

(中风 OR 卒中 OR 脑血管 OR 脑梗塞 OR 脑梗死 OR 脑栓塞 OR 脑缺血 OR 脑缺血再灌注)
And (针灸 OR 针刺 OR 电针 OR 芒针 OR 皮下针 OR 火针 OR 头针 OR 手捻针 OR 长针 OR
巨针 OR 头皮针 OR 体针 OR 温针 OR 毫针 OR 皮内针 OR 园针 OR 锋针 OR 铍针 OR 圆利
针 OR 大针) And (神经可塑性 OR 脑可塑性 OR 突触可塑性 OR 神经再生 OR 再生 OR 突触
再生 OR 轴突再生 OR 神经网络再生 OR 神经生长因子 OR 神经递质 OR "NTFs" OR "BDNF"
OR "VEGF" OR "NT-3" OR "NT-4" OR "GDNF" OR "bFGF" OR "EGF" OR "p75NTR")

CBM

(中风 OR 卒中 OR 脑血管 OR 脑梗塞 OR 脑梗死 OR 脑栓塞 OR 脑缺血 OR 脑缺血再灌注)
And (针灸 OR 针刺 OR 电针 OR 芒针 OR 皮下针 OR 火针 OR 头针 OR 手捻针 OR 长针 OR
巨针 OR 头皮针 OR 体针 OR 温针 OR 毫针 OR 皮内针 OR 园针 OR 锋针 OR 铍针 OR 圆利
针 OR 大针) And (神经可塑性 OR 脑可塑性 OR 突触可塑性 OR 神经再生 OR 再生 OR 突触
再生 OR 轴突再生 OR 神经网络再生 OR 神经生长因子 OR 神经递质 OR "NTFs" OR "BDNF"
OR "VEGF" OR "NT-3" OR "NT-4" OR "GDNF" OR "bFGF" OR "EGF" OR "p75NTR")

Supplementary Table 1 Characteristics of the included studies

Author	Year	diagnose	Species	Sex	Anesthetic	Intervention	Control	Outcome	Treatment time	Animal modeling
Chen YH, Huang XF ⁷²	2000(1)	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	7 d	suture-occluded method
Cao XL et al ¹⁶	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	suture-occluded method
Cao XL et al ¹⁶	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP--43mRNA	7 d	suture-occluded method
Ding J et al ⁷⁴	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	21 d	suture-occluded method
Duan XD et al ⁷⁵	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	1% pentobarbital sodium	EA	rol	NGF	14 d	suture-occluded method
Duan XD et al ⁷⁵	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	1% pentobarbital sodium	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	suture-occluded method
Liu L, Zhang XQ ⁷⁸	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	7 d	suture-occluded method
Li QL et al ⁵⁶	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	7 d	suture-occluded method
Li QL et al ⁵⁶	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	suture-occluded method
Ma Y et al ⁸¹	2018	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	7 d	suture-occluded method
Song CM ²⁸	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	8 d	suture-occluded method

										suture-
Tan F et al ⁴⁴	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	5%isoflurane	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method occluded
Wang MP et al ⁶⁷	2018	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	suture-occluded method
Wang S et al ¹⁰⁴	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	NR	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	suture-occluded method
Yang MG et al ²⁹	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	suture-occluded method
Zhao HJ et al ³⁹	2018	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	suture-occluded method
Ding J et al ⁷³	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	1%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	21 d	suture-occluded method
Lin R et al ³³	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	7 d	suture-occluded method
Lin R et al ³³	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD-95	7 d	suture-occluded method
Lin XM et al ²⁶	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD-95	7 d	suture-occluded method
Lin XM et al ²⁶	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	suture-occluded method
Tan F et al ⁵⁵	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	suture-occluded method
Zhao JP et al ³⁰	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	suture-occluded method

Zhao JP et al ⁵⁰	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNFmR-NA	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhao JP et al ⁵⁰	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Zheng CX ¹⁰⁸	2017	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	21 d	method	two-vessel occlusion
Li T ³²	2016	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD-95	21 d	method	suture-occluded
Lv H ⁴³	2016	cerebral ischemia	SPF wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Tao J et al ¹⁵⁶	2016	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Tao J et al ¹⁵⁶	2016	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhang SL ⁵³	2016	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	NR	EA	rol	Ang-1	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhang SL ⁵³	2016	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	NR	EA	rol	VEGF	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Chen C et al ⁷⁰	2015	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	NR	EA	rol	NGF	NR	method	suture-occluded
Li HL ³¹	2015	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD-95	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Li QP et al ²⁵	2015	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Li QP et al ²⁵	2015	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	14 d	method	suture-occluded

											suture-
		cerebral		N				cont			occluded
Li XJ et al ⁹⁸	2015	ischemia	SPF rats	R	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	7 d	method	
											suture-
Wang J et al ⁵⁹	2015	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	8 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Wang L ⁶⁰	2015	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	NR	method	occluded
											suture-
Xiang F ⁶¹	2015	ischemia	SPF rats	M	NR	EA	rol	VEGF	14 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Yu JH et al ¹¹⁰	2015	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNFmR-NA	21 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Zhao JH et al ⁴⁰	2015	ischemia	SPF rats	M	3%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Zhu YH et al ⁶⁹	2015	ischemia	SD rats	M	NR	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Chen B et al ⁴¹	2014	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Cheng CY et al ⁹⁴	2014	ischemia	SD rats	M	chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	3 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Li J et al ⁶⁴	2014	ischemia	Wistar rats	M	/F NR	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Liu D et al ¹⁰⁰	2014	ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	2 m	method	two-vessel occlusion
											suture-
Liu Y et al ¹⁰¹	2014	ischemia	SPF rats	M	NR	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	method	occluded
											suture-
Luo D et al ⁴²	2014	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method	occluded

											suture-
Luo D et al ⁴²	2014	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestinm-RNA	3 d	method	occluded
Qin B et al ²¹	2014	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	1%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Tao J ⁹⁶	2014	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Xie CC ⁶⁸	2014	cerebral ischemia	SPF-SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Ye XQ et al ¹⁰⁷	2014	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Ye XQ et al ¹⁰⁷	2014	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNFmR-NA	3 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhang YG et al ³⁸	2014	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	3%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhang YG et al ³⁸	2014	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	3%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Han YS ¹⁷	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	6%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Han YS ¹⁷	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	method	suture-occluded
Huang LJ et al ⁵⁵	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	/F NR	EA	rol	VEGF	6 h	method	suture-occluded
Ma JX et al ⁵¹	2013	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	24 h	method	suture-occluded

Ma JX et al ⁵¹	2013	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	24 h	method	suture-occluded
Wei XY ⁹³	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	bFGF	12 h	method	suture-occluded
Xiao YC et al ³⁷	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Xu L et al ²²	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	6%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	method	electrocoagulation
Xu L et al ²²	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	6%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	14 d	method	electrocoagulation
Zhang YK, Tao LF ⁴⁸	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhang YK, Tao LF ⁴⁸	2013	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Zhao JX et al ¹¹¹	2013	cerebral ischemia	Kunming mice	M	NR	EA	rol	BDNFmR-NA	7 d	NR	suture-occluded
Ding L et al ⁹⁰	2012	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	bFGF	24 h	method	suture-occluded
Mao QJ, Chen BG ⁶⁶	2012	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	2 d	method	suture-occluded
Shen F et al ⁸⁹	2012	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GDNF	72 h	method	suture-occluded
Wang YC et al ¹⁰⁵	2012	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	method	suture-occluded
Ye F et al ⁴⁵	2012	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	2%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method	suture-occluded

											electrocoa
		cerebral					cont		7 d		gulation
You HL ⁴⁶	2012	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin			method
											suture-
Zhang XM ⁵⁴	2012	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Ang-1	48 h		method
											suture-
Zhang XM ⁵⁴	2012	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	48 h		method
											suture-
Zhang XM ⁵⁴	2012	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	48 h		method
											suture-
Chen WS ⁷¹	2011	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	NR		method
											suture-
Liu D et al ¹⁰⁰	2011	ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GDNF	6 h		method
											suture-
Liu D et al ¹⁰⁰	2011	ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	bFGF	72 h		method
											suture-
Ma RR(1) et al ¹⁹	2011	ischemia	SD rats	M	NR	EA	rol	GAP-43		14 d	method
											suture-
Ma RR(1) et al ¹⁹	2011	ischemia	SD rats	M	NR	EA	rol	GAP-43mRNA		7 d	method
											suture-
Zhang HX et al ⁴⁷	2011	ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestin		7 d	method
											suture-
Liu YN et al ¹⁰²	2010	ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF		7 d	method
											suture-
Mi XJ ²⁰	2010	ischemia	SD rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF		14 d	method

											suture-occluded
Shen GY ⁵² .	2009	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	24 h	method	method
			SPF								electrocoagulation
Chen LR ¹¹ .	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD thickness	14 d	method	method
			SPF								heat-coagulation
Chen LR ¹¹	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Synaptic cleft width	12 h	n method	n method
			SPF					Numberical density of Synapses			heat-coagulation
Du YX ¹²	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Synapses	7 d	n method	n method
			SPF					Numberical density of Synapses			electrocoagulation
Du YX ¹²	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Synapses	7 d	method	method
			SPF								electrocoagulation
Du YX ¹²	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD thickness	7 d	method	method
			SPF								electrocoagulation
Du YX ¹²	2008	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Synaptic cleft width	1 d	method	method
											electrocoagulation
Fan YS,		cerebral		M	3%sodium		cont				gulation
Luo Y ⁷⁶	2008	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	/F	pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	2 d	method	method
											suture-occluded
Ma JX ⁶⁵	2008	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	3.5% chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Ang-1	2 h	method	method
											suture-occluded
Song YS,		cerebral					cont				occluded
Zhou MF ³⁴	2008	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	7 d	method	method
											suture-occluded
Bao DP ⁴⁹	2007	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestinm-RNA	28 d	method	method
			SPF								suture-occluded
Yao G et al ²³	2007	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	M	NR	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	method	method

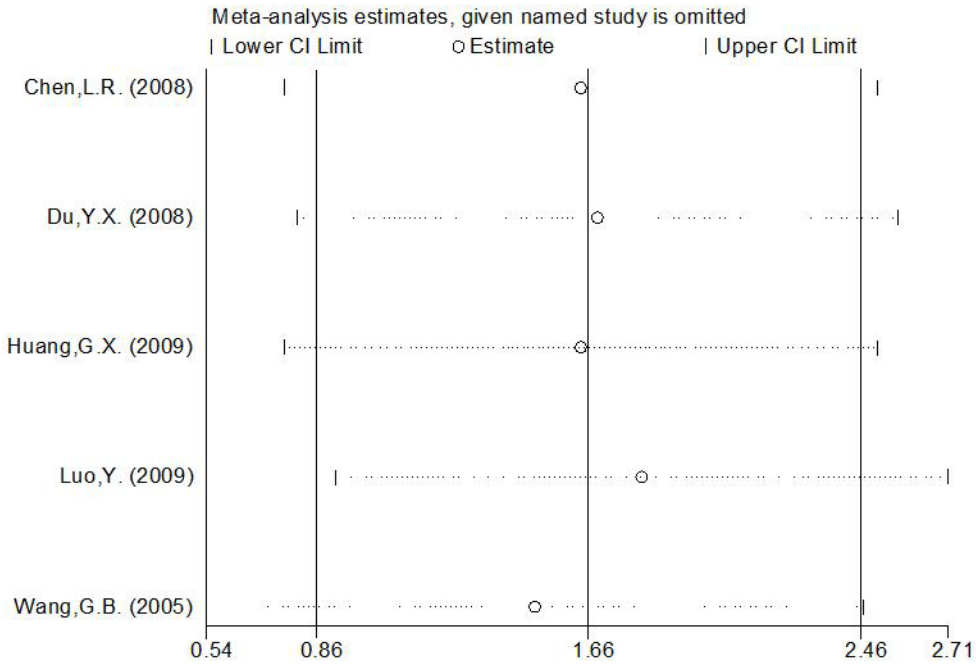
											suture-
Zhou CL et al ⁶² .	2007	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	8 d	method	occluded
											thromboe
											mbolic
Fan YS ⁹¹	2006	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	/F	3%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	bFGF	2 d	method	suture-
											occluded
Han XH et al ⁹²	2006	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	6%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	bFGF	6 d	method	suture-
											occluded
Jiang C ⁵⁰	2006	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	/F	10%urethane	EA	rol	Nestinm-RNA	7 d	method	suture-
											occluded
Jiang C ⁵⁰	2006	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	/F	10%urethane	EA	rol	NGF	8 h	method	suture-
											occluded
Jiang HZ et al ⁶³ .	2006	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	6%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	72 h	method	photoche
											mical
											suture-
Shen F ⁸³	2006	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	72 h	method	occluded
											heat-
											coagulatio
Yi W et al ⁸⁵	2006	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	14 d	n method	suture-
											occluded
Bai MH ⁸⁷	2005	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GDNF	72 h	method	suture-
											occluded
Bai MH ⁸⁷	2005	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	bFGF	72 h	method	heat-
											coagulatio
Ji Z ⁷⁷	2005	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	10 h	n method	suture-
											occluded
											heat-
Wang GB et al ¹⁵	2005	cerebral ischemia	wistar rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Numberi-cal density of Synapses	35 d	n method	coagulatio

								Numberi-cal		heat-
Wang GB		cerebral					cont	density of		coagulatio
et al ¹⁵	2005	ischemia	SPF rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Synapses	14 d	n method
Wang GB		cerebral					cont			heat-
et al ¹⁵	2005	ischemia	SPF rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	PSD thickness	35 d	coagulatio
										n method
										heat-
Yin TR ⁸⁶	2005	ischemia	SD rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	24 h	coagulatio
										n method
										suture-
Chen JJ ²⁴	2004	ischemia	rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43mRNA	7 d	occluded
										method
										suture-
Chen JJ ²⁴	2004	ischemia	rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	Nestinm-RNA	7 d	occluded
										method
										suture-
Chen JJ ²⁴	2004	ischemia	rats	/F	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	occluded
										method
										suture-
Liu B ²⁷	2004	ischemia	rats	M	20%urethane	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	occluded
										method
										heat-
Luo.Z.D.	2004	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	10 h	coagulatio
										n method
										heat-
Xu,N.G.	2004	ischemia	SPF rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	coagulatio
										n method
										suture-
Huang,X.F.	2002	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43	14 d	occluded
										method
										heat-
Luo ZD et		cerebral	Wistar				cont			coagulatio
al ⁷⁹	2002	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	10 h	n method
Chen YH,										suture-
Huang		cerebral	Wistar				cont			occluded
XF ⁷² .	2000	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	8 h	method

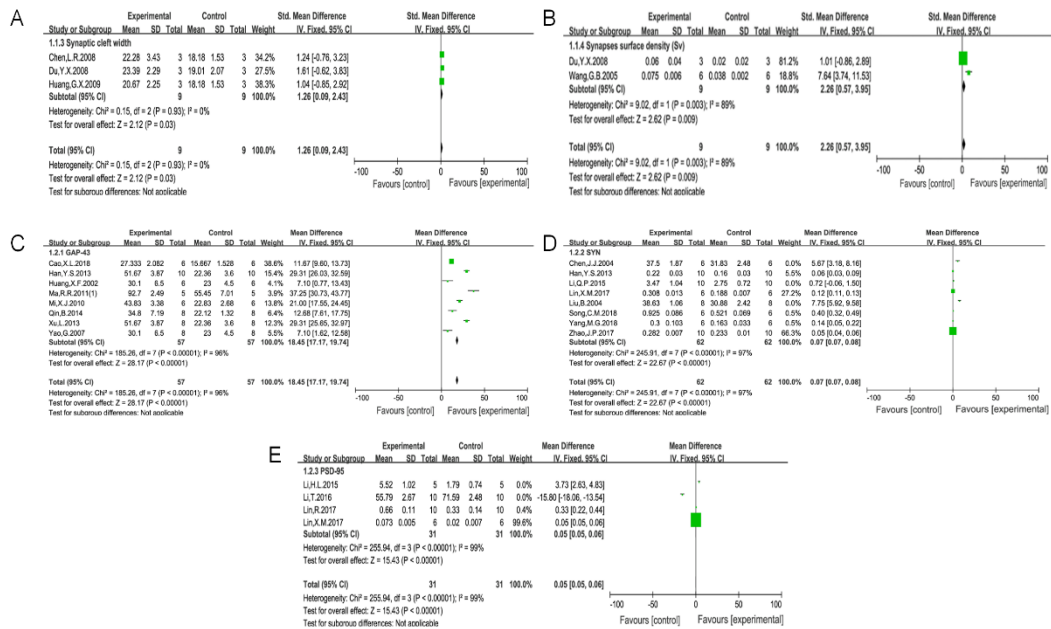
											suture-
Chen YH,		cerebral	Wistar					cont			occluded
Huang XF ⁷²	2000	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	8 h		method
Chen YH,											suture-
Huang		cerebral	Wistar					cont			occluded
XF ⁷² .	2000	ischemia	rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	7 d		method
											suture-
Cao XL et		cerebral						cont		14 d	occluded
al ¹⁶	2018	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43			method
											suture-
Cao XL et		cerebral						cont		7 d	occluded
al ¹⁶	2018	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GAP-43mRNA			method
											suture-
Ding J et		cerebral						cont			occluded
al ⁷⁴	2018	ischemia	SD rats	M	sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	21 d		method
											suture-
Duan XD et		cerebral			1% pentobarbital			cont			occluded
al ⁷⁵	2018	ischemia	SPF rats	M	sodium	EA	rol	NGF	14 d		method
											suture-
Duan XD et		cerebral			1% pentobarbital			cont			occluded
al ⁷⁵	2018	ischemia	SPF rats	M	sodium	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d		method
											suture-
Liu L,		cerebral						cont			occluded
Zhang XQ ⁷⁸	2018	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	7 d		method
											suture-
Li QL et		cerebral						cont			occluded
al ⁵⁶	2018	ischemia	SPF rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGF	7 d		method
											suture-
Li QL et		cerebral						cont			occluded
al ⁵⁶	2018	ischemia	SPF rats	M	3.5%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d		method
											suture-
		cerebral	Wistar					cont			occluded
Ma Y et al ⁸¹	2018	ischemia	rats	H	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	NGF	7 d		method
											suture-
		cerebral						cont			occluded
Song CM ²⁸	2018	ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	8 d		method

										suture-
Tan F et al ⁴⁴	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	5%isoflurane	EA	rol	Nestin	7 d	method
										suture-
Wang MP et al ⁶⁷	2018	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	VEGFmR-NA	7 d	method
										suture-
Wang S et al ¹⁰⁴	2018	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	NR	EA	rol	BDNF	14 d	method
										suture-
Yang MG et al ²⁹	2018	cerebral ischemia	SPF rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	SYN	7 d	method
										suture-
Zhao HJ et al ³⁹	2018	cerebral ischemia	Wistar rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	GFAP	14 d	method
										suture-
Ding J et al ⁷³	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	1%sodium pentobarbital	EA	rol	NGF	21 d	method
										suture-
										occluded
Lin R et al ³³	2017	cerebral ischemia	SD rats	M	10%chloral hydrate	EA	rol	BDNF	7 d	method

Notes: SD rats: Sprague-Dawley rats; H: half male and half female; SPF rats: specific-pathogen-free wistar rats; M/F: male and female, with no restrictions on the sex ratio; control: the ischemia control group; NR: not reported; PSD: postsynaptic density; Nv: synaptic numerical density; Sv: synaptic surface density; GAP-43: growth-associated protein-43; SYN: synaptophysin; GFAP: glial fibrillary acidic protein; ANG-1: angiotensin-1; VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor; NGF: nerve growth factor; GDNF: glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor; bFGF: basic fibroblast growth factor; BDNF: brain-derived neurotrophic factor.

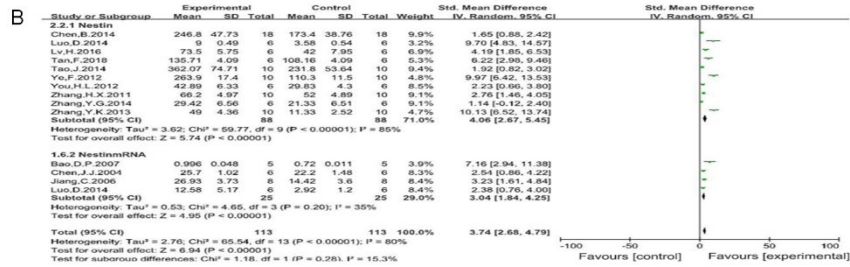
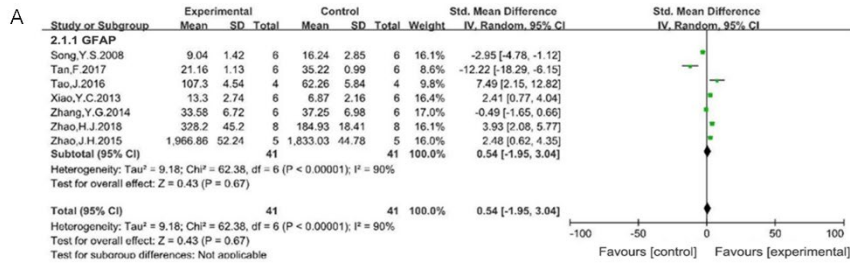


Supplementary Figure 1 Sensitivity analysis of included studies of PSD thickness
 PSD: postsynaptic density; CI: confidence interval.



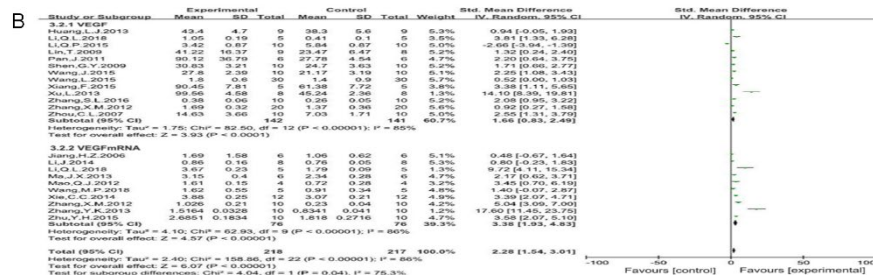
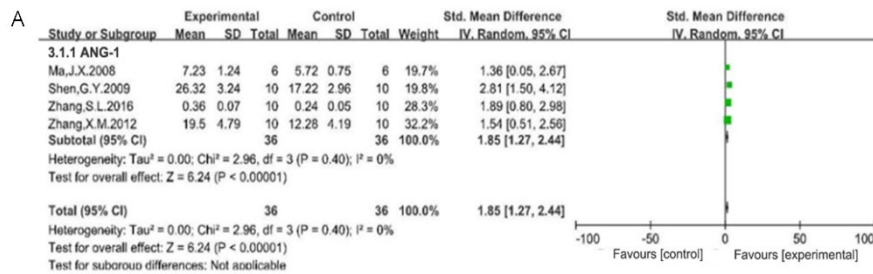
Supplementary Figure 2 Forest plot of the effects of EA on Synaptic plasticity

A: forest plot of the effects of EA on Synaptic cleft width; B: forest plot of the effects of EA on Synaptic surface density; C: forest plot of the effects of EA on GAP-43; D: forest plot of the effects of EA on SYN; E: forest plot of the effects of EA on PSD-95. GAP-43: growth-associated protein-43; SYN: synaptophysin; PSD: postsynaptic density; EA: electroacupuncture; CI: confidence interval; IV: inverse variance; SD: standard deviation.



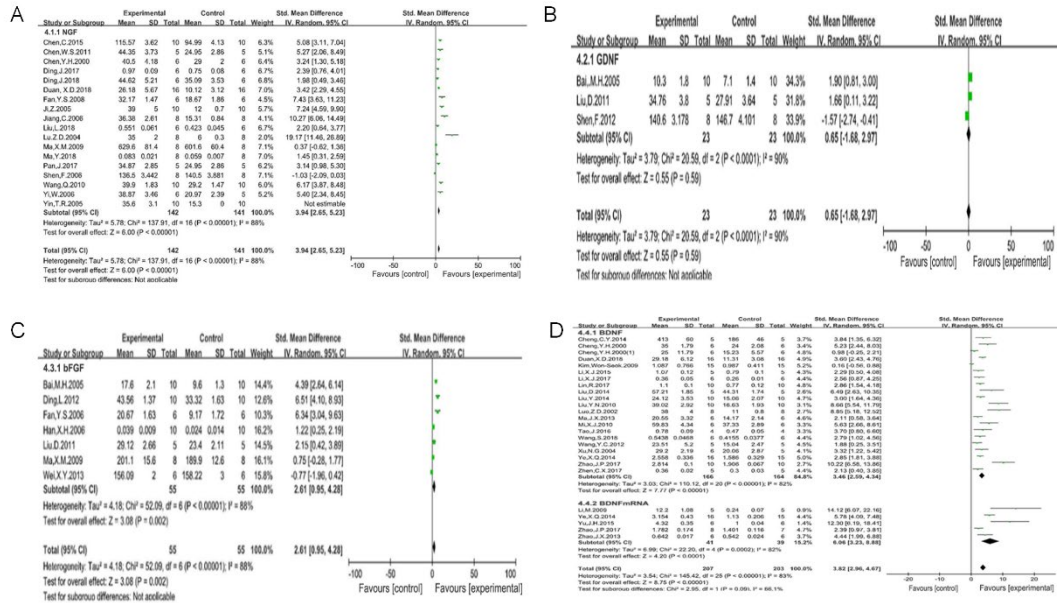
Supplementary Figure 3 Forest plot of the effects of EA on Neurogenesis

A: forest plot of the effects of EA on GFAP; B: forest plot of the effects of EA on Nestin and NestinmRNA; GFAP: glial fibrillary acidic protein; EA: electroacupuncture; CI: confidence interval; IV: inverse variance; SD: standard deviation.



Supplementary Figure 4 Forest plot of the effects of EA on Angiogenesis

A: forest plot of the effects of EA on ANG-1; B: forest plot of the effects of EA on VEGF and VEGFmRNA; ANG-1: angiopoietin-1; VEGF: vascular endothelial growth factor; EA: electroacupuncture; CI: confidence interval; IV: inverse variance; SD: standard deviation.



Supplementary Figure 5 Forest plot of the effects of EA on Neurotrophins

A: forest plot of the effects of EA on NGF; B: forest plot of the effects of EA on GDNF; C: forest plot of the effects of EA on bFGF; D: forest plot of the effects of EA on BDNF and BDNFmRNA. NGF: nerve growth factor; GDNF: glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor; bFGF: basic fibroblast growth factor; BDNF: brain-derived neurotrophic factor; EA: electroacupuncture; CI: confidence interval; IV: inverse variance; SD: standard deviation.