

DATA AND ANALYSES

Comparison 1. Acupuncture vs. no acupuncture

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Response	4		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	221	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.99 [1.30, 3.03]
1.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	4	2376	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.33 [2.02, 2.69]
1.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
1.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	401	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	2.23 [1.39, 3.58]
2 Headache frequency (various measures)	5		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	218	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.44 [-0.74, -0.14]
2.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	4	2087	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.43 [-0.60, -0.27]
2.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	301	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.29 [-0.52, -0.06]
3 Migraine attacks	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	197	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.70 [-1.07, -0.33]
3.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	219	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.79 [-1.12, -0.47]
3.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4 Migraine days	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	198	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.50 [-2.31, -0.69]
4.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	220	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.64 [-2.87, -0.41]
4.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5 Headache days	3		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	198	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.90 [-2.13, 0.33]
5.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	3	2064	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-2.09 [-2.60, -1.58]

5.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	301	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-2.20 [-3.90, -0.50]
6 Headache intensity	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	20	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	1652	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.77 [-0.94, -0.61]
6.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7 Analgesic use	5		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	218	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.29 [-0.59, 0.01]
7.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	4	581	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.52 [-1.22, 0.18]
7.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	1	50	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.25 [-0.82, 0.33]
7.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	301	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.02 [-0.24, 0.21]
8 Headache scores	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	198	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.40 [-0.70, -0.10]
8.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	3	558	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.19 [-2.12, -0.25]
8.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	1	66	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-2.81 [-3.50, -2.12]
8.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	301	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.40 [-0.63, -0.17]

Comparison 2. Acupuncture vs. sham interventions

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Response	13		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	7	1091	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.38 [0.96, 1.97]
1.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	11	1225	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.13 [0.95, 1.35]
1.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	6	1054	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.19 [0.86, 1.63]
1.4 > 6 months after randomization	3	132	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.01 [0.51, 1.99]
2 Headache frequency (various measures)	8		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

2.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	6	895	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.23 [-0.49, 0.04]
2.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	8	1012	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.18 [-0.44, 0.07]
2.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	5	932	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.01 [-0.25, 0.28]
2.4 > 6 months after randomization	4	150	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.11 [-0.22, 0.43]
3 Migraine attacks	5		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	4	326	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.35 [-0.74, 0.04]
3.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	5	360	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.11 [-0.51, 0.30]
3.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	4	321	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.15 [-0.36, 0.65]
3.4 > 6 months after randomization	4	150	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.30 [-0.10, 0.71]
4 Migraine days	6		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	5	864	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.80 [-1.70, 0.11]
4.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	6	951	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.27 [-0.98, 0.45]
4.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	5	928	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.17 [-0.82, 0.47]
4.4 > 6 months after randomization	4	140	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.35 [-0.90, 1.60]
5 Headache days	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	240	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.47 [-2.31, 1.36]
5.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	238	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.12 [-1.41, 1.17]
5.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	233	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.07 [-1.66, 1.52]
5.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6 Headache intensity	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	3	845	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.06 [-0.07, 0.20]
6.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	3	836	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.06 [-0.37, 0.24]
6.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	28	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.37 [-1.12, 0.38]
7 Analgesic use	7		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	5	368	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.08 [-0.29, 0.14]
7.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	7	455	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.27 [-0.71, 0.16]
7.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	6	409	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.56 [-1.57, 0.46]

7.4 > 6 months after randomization	5	171	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.02 [-0.30, 0.35]
8 Headache scores	4		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	240	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.06 [-0.22, 0.34]
8.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	4	327	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.81 [-2.19, 0.58]
8.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	3	291	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.14 [-3.76, 1.49]
8.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	26	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
9 Response (for funnel plot)	13	1306	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.19 [1.04, 1.36]
9.1 3 to 4 months after randomization	11	1225	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.12 [0.98, 1.29]
9.2 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	81	Risk Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	4.83 [1.81, 12.89]
10 Response (higher quality studies)	5	977	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.04 [0.89, 1.21]
11 Headache frequency (various measures - for funnel plot)	8	1012	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-0.22, 0.03]
11.1 3 to 4 months after randomization	8	1012	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-0.22, 0.03]
12 Headache frequency (various measures - higher quality studies)	5	888	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.03 [-0.16, 0.11]
12.1 3 to 4 months after randomization	5	888	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.03 [-0.16, 0.11]

Comparison 3. Acupuncture vs. drug treatment

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Response	2		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	566	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.35 [1.09, 1.67]
1.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	566	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.20 [0.98, 1.46]
1.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	564	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	1.35 [0.89, 2.05]
1.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2 Headache frequency (various measures)	4		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	3	653	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.24 [-0.40, -0.08]
2.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	4	780	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.26 [-0.41, -0.11]

2.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	3	714	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.20 [-0.35, -0.05]
2.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3 Migraine attacks	3		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	241	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.49 [-0.91, -0.08]
3.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	3	316	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.32 [-0.59, -0.04]
3.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	237	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.47 [-1.22, 0.28]
3.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4 Migraine days	2		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
4.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	503	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.58 [-1.09, -0.07]
4.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	553	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.70 [-1.23, -0.17]
4.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	564	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.66 [-1.18, -0.13]
4.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5 Headache days	1		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	91	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	0.10 [-1.26, 1.46]
5.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	1	89	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.10 [-1.52, 1.32]
5.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	1	87	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.60 [-1.99, 0.79]
5.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6 Headache intensity	3		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	3	639	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.37 [-0.75, 0.02]
6.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	565	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.41 [-0.81, -0.01]
6.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7 Analgesic use	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	241	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.22 [-0.53, 0.08]
7.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	2	239	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.08 [-0.33, 0.18]
7.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	2	237	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.09 [-0.35, 0.17]
7.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
8 Headache scores	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

8.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	91	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.08 [-0.50, 0.34]
8.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	1	89	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.16 [-0.59, 0.27]
8.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	1	87	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-0.23 [-0.67, 0.20]
8.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
9 Number of patients reporting adverse effects	4	838	Odds Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.47 [0.34, 0.65]
10 Number of patients dropping out due to adverse effects	2	191	Odds Ratio (M-H, Fixed, 95% CI)	0.10 [0.01, 0.78]

Comparison 4. Acupuncture vs. other therapy

Outcome or subgroup title	No. of studies	No. of participants	Statistical method	Effect size
1 Response	0		Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
1.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
1.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
1.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
1.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Risk Ratio (M-H, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2 Headache frequency (various measures)	2		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
2.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	2	47	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	1	20	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
2.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	17	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3 Migraine attacks	0		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
3.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
3.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4 Migraine days	0		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

4.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
4.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5 Headache days	0		Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
5.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
5.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6 Headache intensity	0		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
6.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
6.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7 Analgesic use	1		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
7.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	1	20	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	1	20	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
7.4 > 6 months after randomization	1	20	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
8 Headache scores	0		Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
8.1 Up to 8 weeks/2 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
8.2 3 to 4 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
8.3 5 to 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable
8.4 > 6 months after randomization	0	0	Std. Mean Difference (IV, Random, 95% CI)	Not estimable