





Supplemental Table 1 Search strategy used in PubMed database

No.	Search Items
1	randomized controlled trial.pt
2	controlled clinical trial.pt
3.	randomized.ti,ab
4.	randomly.ti,ab
5.	groups.ti,ab
6.	trial.ti,ab
7.	or 1-6
8.	acupuncture.ti,ab
9.	electro-acupuncture.ti,ab
10.	elongated needle.ti,ab
11.	three edged needle.ti,ab
12.	(fire needle or warming needle).ti,ab
13.	auricular acupuncture.ti,ab
14.	abdominal acupuncture.ti,ab
15.	warm acupuncture.ti,ab
16.	pyonex.ti,ab
17.	or 8-16
18.	chronic prostatitis.ti,ab
19.	chronic pelvic pain syndrome.ti,ab
20.	non-bacterial prostatitis.ti,ab
21.	prostatitides.ti,ab
22.	inflammatory prostatitides.ti,ab
23.	inflammatory prostatitis.ti,ab
24.	asymptomatic inflammatory prostatitis.ti,ab
25.	or 18-24
26.	7 and 17 and 25

This search strategy will be modified as required for other electronic databases.

Supplemental Table 2 Characteristics of included randomized controlled trials

Study	Location (published language)	Sample size	Diagnosis	Interventions of treatment group	Intervention of control group	Test duration (week)	Outcomes	Adverse event
Sham controlled								
Lee et al 2008 ²⁴	Malasia (English)	89 (44/45)	CP/CPSS	Needle parameter: 0.3mm stainless needles Depth: 40-60mm, depending on location of acupoints Points: CV1, CV4, SP6, SP9 Duration: 30mins, twice a week Manipulation: rotation	Needle parameter: 0.3mm stainless needles Depth: 25mm for all points Points: 15mm to the left of actual CV1, CV4, SP6, SP9 Duration: 30mins, twice a week Manipulation: manual acupuncture	10	NIH-CPSI IPSS IIEF Global assessment	8 in the acupuncture group (6 hematoma and 2 with pain at needling sites) 5 in the sham group (1 hematoma, 3 with pain at needling sites and 1 with acute urinary retention)
Lee et al 2009 ²⁵	Korea (English)	36 (12/12/12)	CP/CPSS	Needle parameter: 0.25mm stainless needles Depth: 30mm Points: BL32, BL33, GB30 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: The needles were stimulated electrically with a frequency of 4Hz and an intensity of 5-10mA with continuous stimulation.	Needle parameter: 0.25mm stainless needles Depth: 30mm Points: 15 mm to the lateral of BL32, BL33, GB30 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: None	6	NIH-CPSI IPSS Global assessment	1 in the sham group (lower back pain near the needling site that resolved quickly)
Sahin et al 2015 ²⁷	Turkey (English)	91 (45/46)	CP/CPSS IIIB	Needle parameter: 0.3mm stainless needles Depth: 25-30mm Points: BL33, BL34, BL54, CV1, CV4, SP6, SP9 Duration: 20mins, once a week Manipulation: rotation	Needle parameter: 0.3mm stainless needles Depth: 25-30mm Points: 10 mm left of BL33, BL34, BL54, CV1, CV4, SP6, SP9 Duration: 20mins, once a week Manipulation: rotation	6	NIH-CPSI	No adverse events were reported in both groups
Zhao et al 2014 ²⁸	China (Chinese)	86 (29/29/28)	CP/CPSS IIIB	Needle parameter: NR Depth: NR Points: LU7, SI3, SP4 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: rotation	Needle parameter: NR Depth: NR Points: 15 mm to the lateral of LU7, SI3, SP4 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: rotation	4	NIH-CPSI	NR
Medicine controlled								
Kucuk et al 2015 ²²	Turkey (English)	54 (26/28)	CP/CPSS IIIB	Needle parameter: 0.25mm stainless needles Depth: 25-30mm Points: UP28, GB41, LIV3, SP6, SP8, LI4 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: electro-acupuncture	levofloxacin 500 mg daily and ibuprofen 200 mg twice a day for 6 weeks	7	NIH-CPSI	No adverse events were reported in both groups
Zhao et al 2014 ²⁸	China (Chinese)	86 (29/29/28)	CP/CPSS IIIB	Needle parameter: NR Depth: NR Points: LU7, SI3, SP4 Duration: 20mins, twice a week Manipulation: rotation	Tamsulosin 0.2 mg daily for 4 weeks	4	NIH-CPSI	NR
Liu et al 2012 ²⁵	China (Chinese)	55 (32/33)	CP/CPSS	Needle parameter: 0.3mm stainless needles Depth: 100mm for CV54, 30mm for others Points: CV54, CV4, ST28, SP6, LIV3, EX-HN1 Duration: 20mins, three times a week Manipulation: rotation	Prostat 70 mg twice a day and fluoxetine 20 mg daily for 4 weeks	4	NIH-CPSI Global assessment	NR
Qi et al 2012 ²⁶	China (Chinese)	60 (30/30)	CP/CPSS	Needle parameter: NR Depth: 25-50mm Points: CV1, CV3, CV4, SP9, SP10 Duration: 30mins, twice a week Manipulation: rotation Terazosin 2mg daily for 4 weeks	Terazosin 2mg daily for 4 weeks	4	NIH-CPSI	NR

NIH-CPSI: National Institute of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index; IPSS: International Prostate Symptom Score; IIEF: International Index of Erectile Function; NR: no report

Supplemental Table 3 NIH-CPSI outcomes of randomized controlled trials

Study	Group	Participants	NIH-CPSI							
			Baseline / After treatment (mean±SD)				Changes (mean±SD)			
			Total score	Pain domain	Voiding domain	Qof domain	Total score	Pain domain	Voiding domain	Qof domain
Lee et al 2008 ²⁴	Acu	44	24.8±6.2 / 14.5±8.7	11.4±3.4 / 7±4.5	4.1±3.7 / 0±2.9	9.1±1.6 / 3.5±5.5	10.3±7.7	4.4±3.3	4.1±3.3	5.8±4.9
	SAC	45	25.2±5.8 / 19±10.3	11.5±2.9 / 8±4.8	4.3±3.7 / 2±3.2	9.4±1.8 / 8±3.8	5.9±7.7	3.5±4.2	2.3±3.5	1.5±3.3
Lee et al 2009 ²⁵	Acu	12	26.9±5.2 / NR	12.2±2.5 / NR	5.3±3 / NR	9.4±1.8 / NR	9.5±3.7	5.2±1.9	1.8±1.5	2.6±2.4
	SAC	12	25.5±3.6 / NR	11.8±2.7 / NR	3.8±2.8 / NR	9.8±1.6 / NR	3.5±3.6	1.6±1.8	0.7±1.4	1.3±1.8
Sahin et al 2015 ²⁷	Acu	45	27±3.5 / 10.8±1.9	13.2±2.3 / 6.1±1.5	4.6±1.2 / 2.2±0.9	9.1±1.5 / 2.5±0.8	15.9±3	7.1±2	2.4±1.1	6.6±1.3
	SAC	46	26.5±3.7 / 16.2±6.6	13±2.2 / 8.2±3.2	4.5±1.4 / 3.5±1.2	8.9±1.4 / 4.6±2.8	9.4±5.8	4.8±1.9	1±1.3	4.3±2.4
Zhao et al 2014 ²⁸	Acu	29	24.5±6.3 / 13.5±3.6	13.7±3.2 / 6.5±2.4	5.4±1.5 / 3.3±1	5.3±1.9 / 4.2±1.4	10.9±5.5	7.2±2.9	2.1±1.3	1.1±1.7
	SAC	29	25.6±6.4 / 24±5.5	14.1±3.6 / 13.3±3.3	6±1.5 / 5.4±1.4	5.4±2 / 5.3±1.7	1.5±3.5	0.8±3.5	0.6±1.3	0.2±1.9
	Med	28	26.6±6.4 / 18.7±4.8	14.4±4 / 10.8±2.9	6.2±1.1 / 2.7±1.1	6±2.3 / 4.5±1.5	7.9±5.8	3.7±3.5	3.5±1.1	0.5±2.1
Kucuk et al 2015 ²²	Acu	26	NR	NR	NR	NR	12.5±6	6.7±3.7	1.8±2.5	5.5±2.4
	Mem	28	NR	NR	NR	NR	6.4±5	3.9±3	0.8±1.4	4.3±2.7
Liu et al 2012 ²⁵	Acu	32	27.9±4.7 / 9.9±2.7	NR	NR	NR	18±4.1	NR	NR	NR
	Med	33	25.8±5.9 / 19.4±6.2	NR	NR	NR	6.4±6.1	NR	NR	NR
Qi et al 2012 ²⁶	Acu+Med	30	24.1±5.5 / 13.2±5.8	13.1±3.2 / 6.4±2.9	2.3±2.2 / 1.3±1.6	9±1.6 / 5.5±2.3	10.9±5.6	6.7±3	1±2	3.5±2
	Med	30	23.1±4.2 / 16.6±3.5	3±2.7 / 7.5±2.1	3±2.7 / 2.1±2.2	8.5±1.6 / 6.9±1.5	6.5±3.9	4.1±3	0.9±2.5	1.6±1.5

NIH-CPSI: National Institute of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index; Acu: acupuncture; SAC: sham acupuncture; Med: medication; NR: no report

Supplemental Table 4 ROB for included randomized controlled trials

Study	Sequence Generation	Allocation Concealment	Blinding	Incomplete Outcome Data	Selective Outcome Reporting	Other Sources of Bias
Lee et al 2008 ²⁴	+	0	+	+	+	+
Lee et al 2009 ²³	+	0	+	+	+	-
Sahin et al 2015 ²⁷	+	0	+	+	+	+
Zhao et al 2014 ²⁸	+	0	-	0	0	0
Kucuk et al 2015 ²²	+	0	-	-	+	+
Liu et al 2012 ²⁵	+	0	0	-	-	0
Qi et al 2012 ²⁶	+	0	-	-	-	0

ROB: risk of bias; + indicates low risk of bias; 0, unclear; -, high risk of bias.