Supplementary Online Content

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eTable. Characteristics of Trials Included in the Analysis and Summary of Trial Quality Assessment

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eTable. Characteristics of Trials Included in the Analysis and Summary of Trial Quality Assessment

Source*	Trial Design	Study Population	Intervention	Comparison	Pain Measure	Sample Size (A/C)[a], Dropout (A/C)[a]	Pain Degree	Age, Year (A/C) [a,b]	Gender, No. of Male (A/C)[a]	Risk of Bias[e]	Primary Outcome Result
Hershman 2018[41] (US)	Sham-controlled 3-arm	AIIA	MA	SA; Waitlist control	BPI	226(110/59/57), 21(10/5/6)	BPI≥3	60.8(34.1-80.6)/ 57.0(40.6-77.5)/ 60.6(27.1-76.0)	0/0/0	All low[f]	Positive[l]
Kim 2018[48] (Korea)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	Advanced Cancer	MA	SA	NRS	30(15/15), 3(1/2)	All degree	54.0±9.1/ 58.2±11.4	5/6	All low	Positive
Ruela 2018[47] (Brazil)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	Cancer pain	AA	SAA	NRS	31(16/15), 8(5/3)	NRS≥4	58.27±10.09/ 52.08±7.99	2/3	Low; unclear; low; unclear; unclear; unclear	Positive
Wang 2017[49] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Non-small cell lung cancer	EA + Oxycontin	Oxycontin	NRS	60(30/30), 0	All degree	64.8±9.4/ 62.1±14.7	16/13	Unclear; unclear; high; low; unclear; unclear	Positive
Shen 2016[50] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Lung cancer	EA + Three-step analgesics	Three-step analgesics	NRS	100(50/50), 0	NRS≥4	54.93±14.45/ 58.09±12.11	28/31	Low, unclear, high, low, unclear, unclear	Positive
Guo 2015[52] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Gastric cancer	EA+ Three-step analgesics	Three-step analgesics	NRS	64(32/32), 0	All degree	61.5±7.6/ 60.8±8.2	20/22	Low, unclear, high, low, unclear, high	Positive
Wang 2015[51] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Bone metastatic cancer	AAP + Oxycodone	Oxycodone	NRS	60(30/30), 0	NRS≥4	62.87±10.96[c]	23[c]	Low, unclear, high, low, unclear, unclear	Positive
Mao 2014[53] (US)	Sham-controlled 3-arm	AIIA	EA	SEA; Waitlist control	BPI	67(22/22/23), 8(3/3/2)	NRS≥4	57.5±10.1/ 60.9±6.5/ 60.6±8.2	0/0/0	All low[f]	Positive[l]
Bao 2013[57] (US)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	AIIA	MA	SA	VAS	51(25/26), 4(2/2)	VAS≥2	61(44-82)/ 61(45-85)	0/0	All low	Negative
Chen 2013[56] (China)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	Pancreatic cancer	EA	SEA	NRS	60(30/30), 1(0/1)	NRS 3-6	60.1±8.5/ 59.1±9.1	19/20	Low, unclear, low, low, low, low	Positive

Oh 2013[55] (Australia)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	AIIA	EA	SEA	BPI	32(16/16), 3(2/1)	BPI≥3	＜45: 12/2 ≥45: 14/1[d]	0/0	All low	Negative

Source*	**Trial design**	**Study Population**	**Intervention**	**Comparison**	**Pain Measure**	**Sample Size (I/C)[a], Dropout (I/C)[a]**	**Pain Degree**	**Age, Year (I/C) [a,b]**	**Gender, No. of Male (I/C)[a]**	**Risk of Bias[e]**	**Primary Outcome Result**
Zhu 2013[54] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Malignant neuropathic	AAP + Oxycontin	Oxycontin	VAS	46(23/23), 0	NRS≥4	55.6±10.2/ 56.2±9.7	13/12	Low, unclear, high, low, unclear, unclear	Positive
Jiang 2011[58] (China)	Open-label 2-arm	Miscellaneous cancer	MA + AAP+ Three-step analgesics	Three-step analgesics	BPI	60(30/30), 0	All degree	20-45: 4/3 46-60: 17/16 61-75: 9/11[d]	16/17	Low, unclear, high, low, unclear, low	Positive
Crew 2010[60] (US)	Sham-controlled 2-arm	AIIA	MA	SA	BPI	43(23/20), 5(3/2)	BPI≥3	58(44-77)/ 57(37-77)	0/0	All low	Positive
Pfister 2010[59] (US)	Open-label 2-arm	Cancer pain after neck dissection	MA + Usual care	Usual care	NRS	70(34/36), 12(6/6)	NRS≥4	61(54,68)/ 57(50,63)	15/23	Low, low, high, low, low, low	Positive
Crew 2007[61] (US)	Open-label cross-over	AIIA	MA + Usual care	Usual care	BPI	21, 2	BPI≥3	59(46-73)[c]	0/0	Unclear, unclear, high, low, low, unclear	Positive
Alimi 2003[62] (France)	Sham-controlled 3-arm	Miscellaneous cancer	AA	SAA; Auricular seeds	VAS	90(29/30/31), 11(1/7/3)	VAS≥3	57(38-84)/ 56(42-72)/ 57 (37-80)	9/3/7	Low ,low, low, unclear, low, unclear[f]	Positive[l]

Abbreviations: AA, Auricular acupuncture; AIIA, Aromatase inhibitor-induced arthralgia; AAP, Auricular acupressure; BPI, Brief Pain Inventory; EA: Electroacupuncture; MA, Manual acupuncture; NRS, Numeral Rating Scale; SA, Sham manual acupuncture; SAA, Sham auricular acupuncture; SEA, Sham electro-acupuncture.; VAS, Visual Analogue Scale.

[a] A/C, data of acupuncture group/ data of control group(s);

[b] Data presented as mean (SD) or median (range);

[c] not reported separately for different groups;

[d] Data presented as the range of age: number;

[e] Risk of bias tool domains: random sequence generation; allocation concealment; blinding of participants and outcome assessors; incomplete outcome data addressed; selective outcome reporting; other potential threats respectively;

[f] In the 3-arm studies, the risk of bias for blinding was considered low for the comparison of experimental intervention and valid sham intervention; high risk of bias for the comparison of experimental intervention and waitlist control or invalid sham control;

[l] Primary results of comparisons (experimental intervention vs. sham control(s) and experimental intervention vs. waitlist control) were both positive.

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