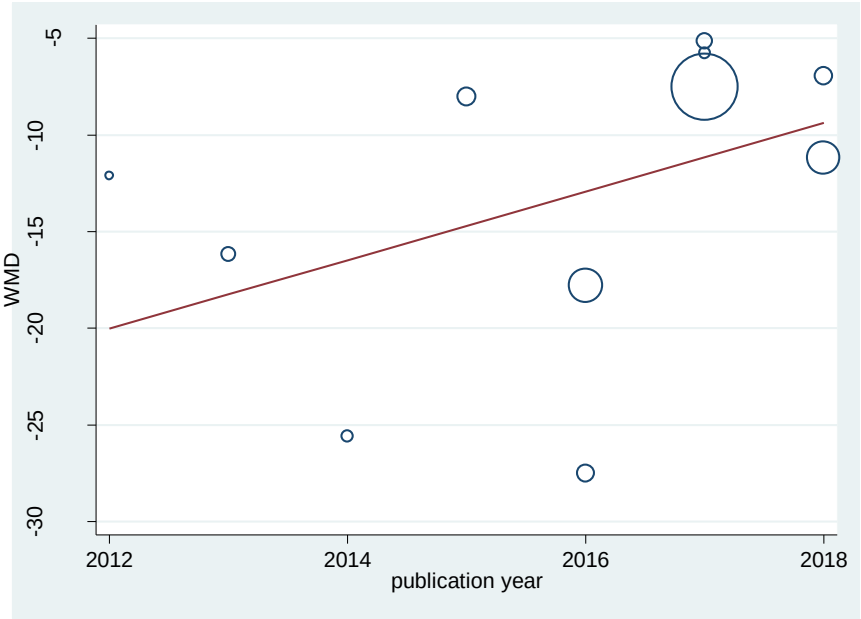
Appendix 1. Search strategy

The following search strategy was used for PubMed, and this search strategy was also suitable for other electronic databases:

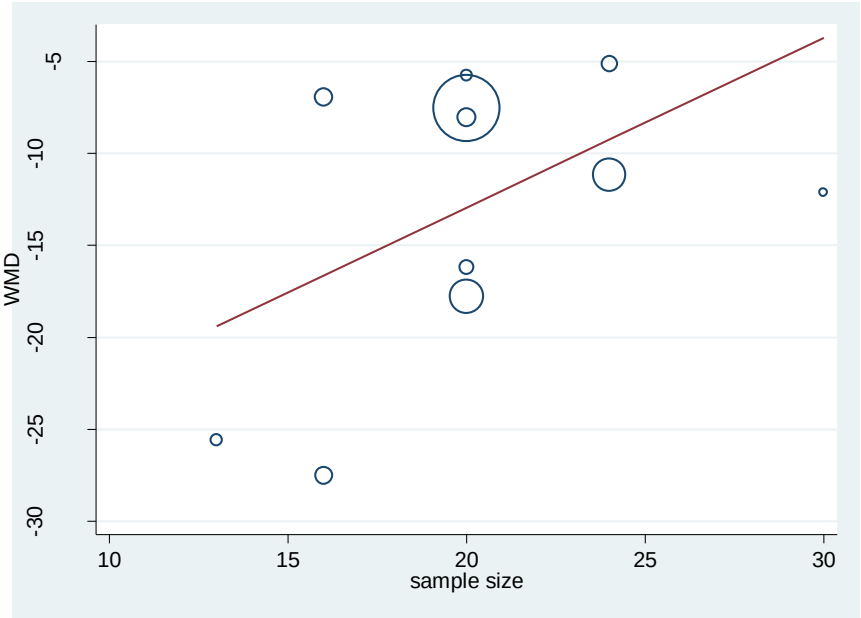
Number	Search terms
1	dementia
2	Alzheimer disease
3	Alzheimer's disease
4	cognitive disorders
5	cognitive impairment
6	dement*
7	Alzheimer*
8	1 OR 2-7
9	acupuncture therapy
10	acupuncture
11	acupoints
12	acupunct*
13	electroacupuncture
14	electro-acupuncture
15	ear acupuncture
16	auricular acupuncture
17	scalp acupuncture
18	body acupuncture
19	elongated needle
20	9 OR 10-19
21	Sham acupuncture
22	Sham-acupuncture
23	Placebo acupuncture
24	Placebo-acupuncture
25	21 OR 22-24
26	Morris water maze
27	MWM
28	behavioral test
29	26 OR 27-28
30	8 AND 20 AND 25 AND 29

Appendix 2. Figures of meta-regression

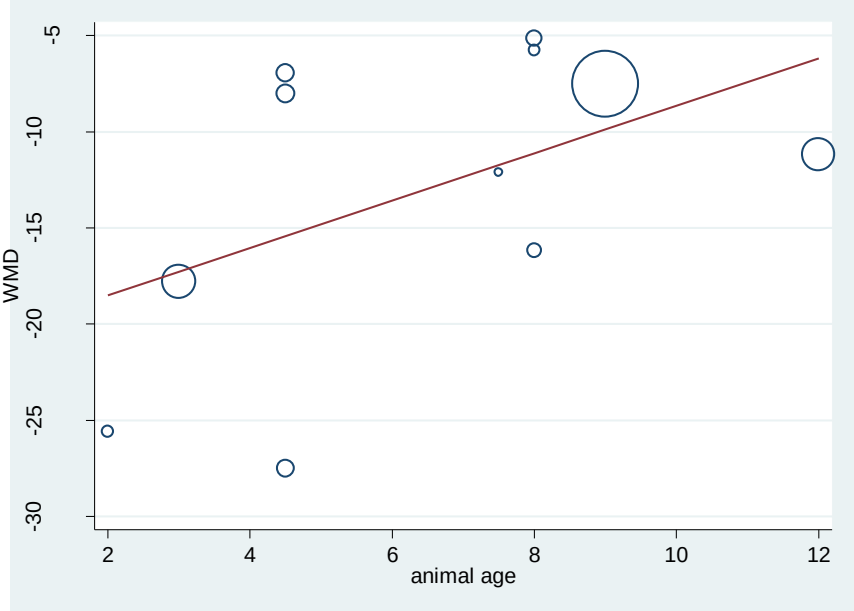
Supplemental Fig.1 Univariate meta-regression based on publication year as covariate



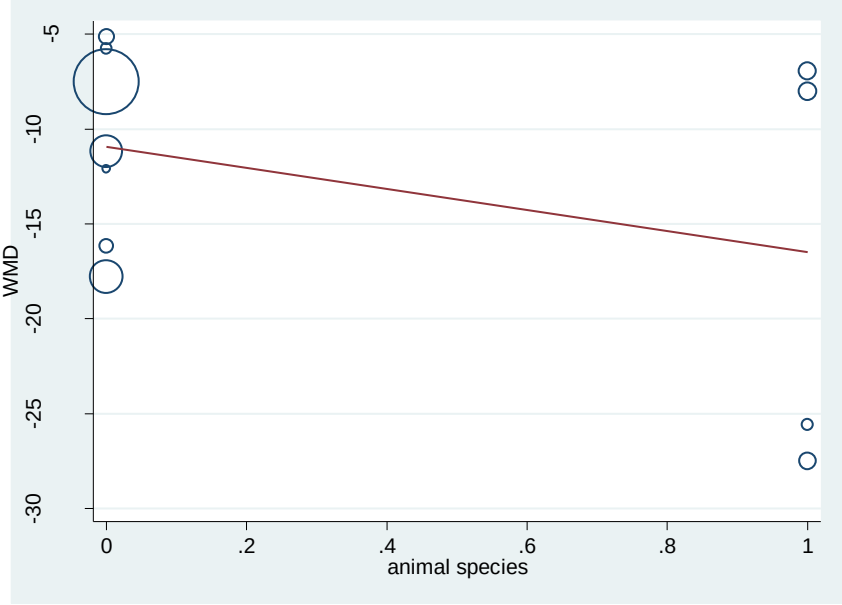
Supplemental Fig.2 Univariate meta-regression based on study sample size as covariate



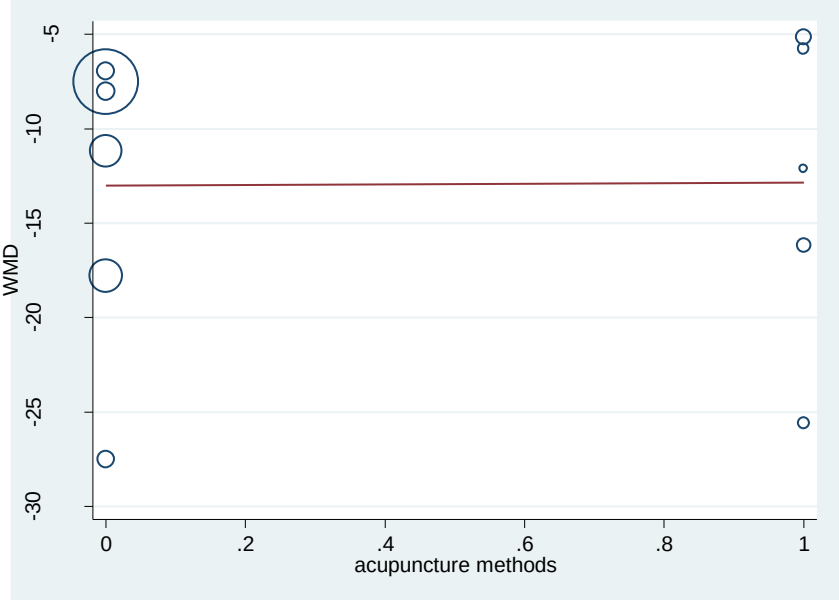
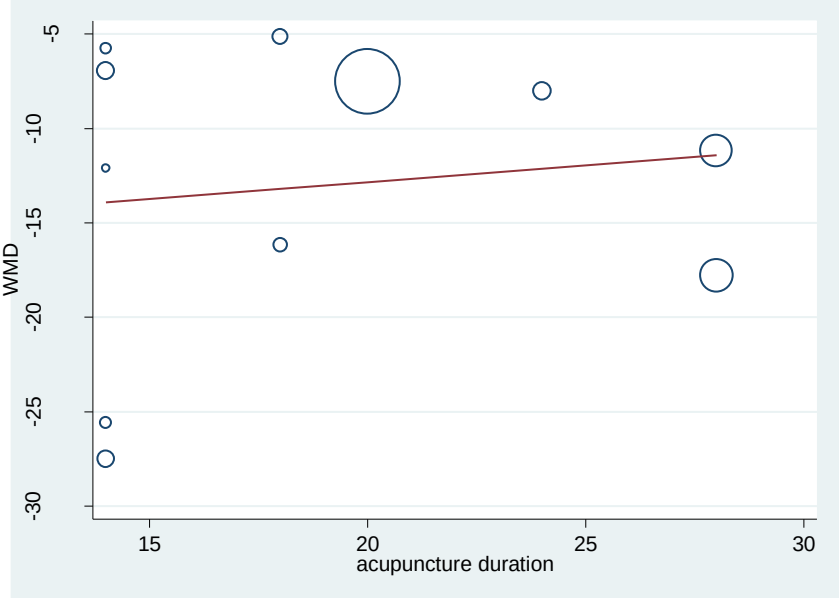
Supplemental Fig.3 Univariate meta-regression based on animal age as covariate



Supplemental Fig.4 Univariate meta-regression based on animal species size as covariate



Supplemental Fig.5 Univariate meta-regression based on acupuncture methods size as covariate



Supplemental Fig.6 Univariate meta-regression based on acupuncture duration size as covariate