Table S1. Search strategy in each database

Database	Search strategy
PubMed	(renal insufficiency, chronic[mh] OR renal replacement therapy[mh] OR diabetic nephropathies[mh] OR nephropathy*[tw] OR renal function*[tw] OR kidney function*[tw] OR renal disease*[tw] OR kidney disease*[tw] OR renal failure*[tw] OR kidney failure*[tw] OR renal insufficien*[tw] OR kidney insufficien*[tw] OR albuminuri*[tw] OR microalbuminuri*[tw] OR macroalbuminuri*[tw] OR proteinuri*[tw] OR albumin excretion*[tw] OR protein excretion*[tw] OR glomerular filtration rate*[tw] OR creatinine*[tw] OR dialy*[tw]) AND (moxibustion [mh] OR moxibustion[tw] OR moxa[tw]) NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans[mh])
Embase	(renal insufficiency, chronic/exp OR renal replacement therapy/exp OR diabetic nephropathy/exp OR nephropathy*:ti,ab OR renal function*:ti,ab OR kidney function*:ti,ab OR renal disease*:ti,ab OR kidney disease*:ti,ab OR renal failure*:ti,ab OR kidney failure*:ti,ab OR renal insufficien*:ti,ab OR kidney insufficien*:ti,ab OR albuminuri*:ti,ab OR microalbuminuri*:ti,ab OR macroalbuminuri*:ti,ab OR proteinuri*:ti,ab OR albumin excretion*:ti,ab OR protein excretion*:ti,ab OR glomerular filtration rate*:ti,ab OR creatinine*:ti,ab OR dialy*:ti,ab) AND (moxibustion/exp OR moxibustion:ti,ab OR moxa:ti,ab)
The Cochrane Library	1. nephropathy*:ti,ab OR renal function*:ti,ab OR kidney function*:ti,ab OR renal disease*:ti,ab OR kidney disease*:ti,ab OR renal failure*:ti,ab OR kidney failure*:ti,ab OR renal insufficien*:ti,ab OR kidney insufficien*:ti,ab OR albuminuri*:ti,ab OR microalbuminuri*:ti,ab OR macroalbuminuri*:ti,ab OR proteinuri*:ti,ab OR albumin excretion*:ti,ab OR protein excretion*:ti,ab OR glomerular filtration rate*:ti,ab OR creatinine*:ti,ab OR dialy*:ti,ab 2. MeSH descriptor: [Renal Insufficiency, Chronic] explode all trees 3. MeSH descriptor: [Renal Replacement Therapy] explode all trees 4. MeSH descriptor: [Renal Replacement Therapy] explode all trees 5. #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 6. MeSH descriptor: [Moxibustion] explode all trees 7. moxibustion:ti,ab OR moxa:ti,ab 8. #6 OR #7 9. #5 AND #8 (limited to “trials”)
Clinicaltrials.gov	Condition or disease: Chronic Kidney Diseases Intervention/treatment: moxibustion
SinoMed	(灸法[主题词] OR 灸[全部字段]) AND (肾脏病[主题词] OR 肾炎[主题词] OR 肾病[全部字段] OR 肾炎[全部字段] OR 肾脏病[全部字段] OR 蛋白尿[全部字段] OR 肌酐[全部字段] OR 透析[全部字段] OR 血透[全部字段] OR 腹透[全部字段])

Chinese National Knowledge Infrastructure	TI=灸*(肾+蛋白尿+肌酐+透析+血透+腹透) AND AB=灸*(肾病+肾炎+肾脏病+蛋白尿+肌酐+透析+血透+腹透)
WanfangData	主题:灸*("肾病"+"肾炎"+"肾脏病"+"蛋白尿"+"肌酐"+"透析"+"血透"+"腹透")
VIP	U=灸 AND (U=肾病 OR U=肾炎 OR U=肾脏病 OR U=蛋白尿 OR U=肌酐 OR U=透析 OR U=血透 OR U=腹透)
Chinese Clinical Trial Registry	研究疾病名称:肾病 干预措施:灸

Table S2. Results of subgroup analysis

Outcomes	Analysis	Subgroup	Mean difference (95% confidence intervals)	Heterogeneity	Interaction p
Serum creatinine	All patients		-17.34 (-28.44, -6.23)	I^2=87%, P<0.001	
	Stage of chronic kidney disease	Mild to moderate	-16.97 (-28.33, -5.52)	I^2=90%, P<0.001	P=0.62
		Severe	-33.41 (-87.99, 25.17)	I^2=0%, P=0.90	
	Type of moxibustion	Direct	-6.12 (-15.16, 2.93)	I^2=82%, P<0.001	P=0.007
		Indirect	-66.25 (-108.80, -23.70)	I^2=71%, P=0.02	
	Length of follow-up	≤ 8 weeks	-2.78 (-9.69, 4.13)	I^2=60%, P=0.02	P=0.01
		> 8 weeks	-58.35 (-102.46, -14.25)	I^2=84%, P<0.001	
24-hour urine protein excretion	All patients		-0.75 (-1.07, -0.42)	I^2=84%, P<0.001	
	Stage of chronic kidney disease	Mild to moderate	-0.75 (-1.07, -0.42)	I^2=84%, P<0.001	
		Severe	No studies		
	Type of moxibustion	Direct	-0.82 (-1.32, -0.33)	I^2=89%, P<0.001	P=0.41
		Indirect	-0.60 (-0.77, -0.43)	I^2=0%, P=0.96	
	Length of follow-up	≤ 8 weeks	-0.77 (-1.16, -0.38)	I^2=86%, P<0.001	P=0.40
		> 8 weeks	-0.58 (-0.80, -0.36)	I^2=0%, P=0.96	
Creatinine clearance	All patients		2.44 (-0.46, 5.35)	I^2=52%, P=0.10	
	Stage of chronic kidney disease	Mild to moderate	4.36 (-5.48, 14.21)	I^2=81%, P=0.02	P=0.70
		Severe	2.34 (-0.59, 5.26)	I^2=25%, P=0.26	
	Type of moxibustion	Direct	3.87 (0.73, 7.01)	I^2=0%, P=0.56	P=0.49
		Indirect	1.96 (-2.53, 6.45)	I^2=65%, P=0.06	
	Length of follow-up	≤ 8 weeks	3.42 (-0.12, 6.97)	I^2=50%, P=0.11	P=0.15
		> 8 weeks	-0.01 (-3.09, 3.07)	Not applicable	
Blood urea nitrogen	All patients		-0.63 (-1.09, -0.18)	I^2=37%, P=0.006	
	Stage of chronic kidney disease	Mild to moderate	-0.67 (-1.13, -0.20)	I^2=40%, P=0.10	P=0.34
		Severe	-0.91 (-2.27, 4.09)	Not applicable	
	Type of moxibustion	Direct	-0.62 (-0.80, -0.43)	I^2=0%, P=0.54	P=0.31
		Indirect	-1.70 (-3.79, 0.40)	I^2=70%, P=0.02	
	Length of follow-up	≤ 8 weeks	-0.45 (-0.96, 0.06)	I^2=32%, P=0.21	P=0.19
		> 8 weeks	-1.41 (-2.73, -0.08)	I^2=48%, P=0.10	

Hemoglobin	All patients		-0.41 (-3.19, 2.36)	I^2=0%, P=0.77	
	Stage of chronic kidney disease	Mild to moderate	No studies		
		Severe	-0.41 (-3.19, 2.36)	I^2=0%, P=0.77	
	Type of moxibustion	Direct	-1.06 (-4.15, 2.03)	I^2=0%, P=0.82	P=0.35
		Indirect	2.30 (-4.02, 8.62)	Not applicable	
	Length of follow-up	≤ 8 weeks	-0.18 (-3.67, 3.30)	I^2=0%, P=0.63	P=0.83
		> 8 weeks	-0.81 (-5.41, 3.78)	I^2=0%, P=0.35	

Table S3. Sensitivity analysis excluding trials with a high risk of bias

Outcome	Analysis	No. of patients		Mean difference (95% confidence intervals)	Heterogeneity
		Moxibustion	Control		
Serum creatinine	Main analysis	423	415	-17.34 (-28.44, -6.23)	I^2=87%, P=0.002
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	265	243	-32.09 (-55.46, -8.72)	I^2=86%, P=0.007
Estimated glomerular filtration rate	Main analysis	72	69	1.93 (-14.41, 18.28)	I^2=71%, P=0.82
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	72	69	1.93 (-14.41, 18.28)	I^2=71%, P=0.82
24-hour urine protein excretion	Main analysis	330	329	-0.75 (-1.07, -0.42)	I^2=84%, P<0.001
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	170	167	-0.56 (-0.72, -0.40)	I^2=0%, P<0.001
Creatinine clearance	Main analysis	144	144	2.44 (-0.46, 5.35)	I^2=52%, P=0.10
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	84	84	3.84 (-1.03, 8.72)	I^2=72%, P=0.12
Blood urea nitrogen	Main analysis	335	327	-0.63 (-1.09, -0.18)	I^2=37%, P=0.006
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	128	140	-0.96 (-2.96, 1.03)	I^2=69%, P=0.34
Hemoglobin	Main analysis	207	194	-0.41 (-3.19, 2.36)	I^2=0%, P=0.77
	Excluding trials with high risk of bias	147	134	-1.17 (-4.84, 2.50)	I^2=0%, P=0.53

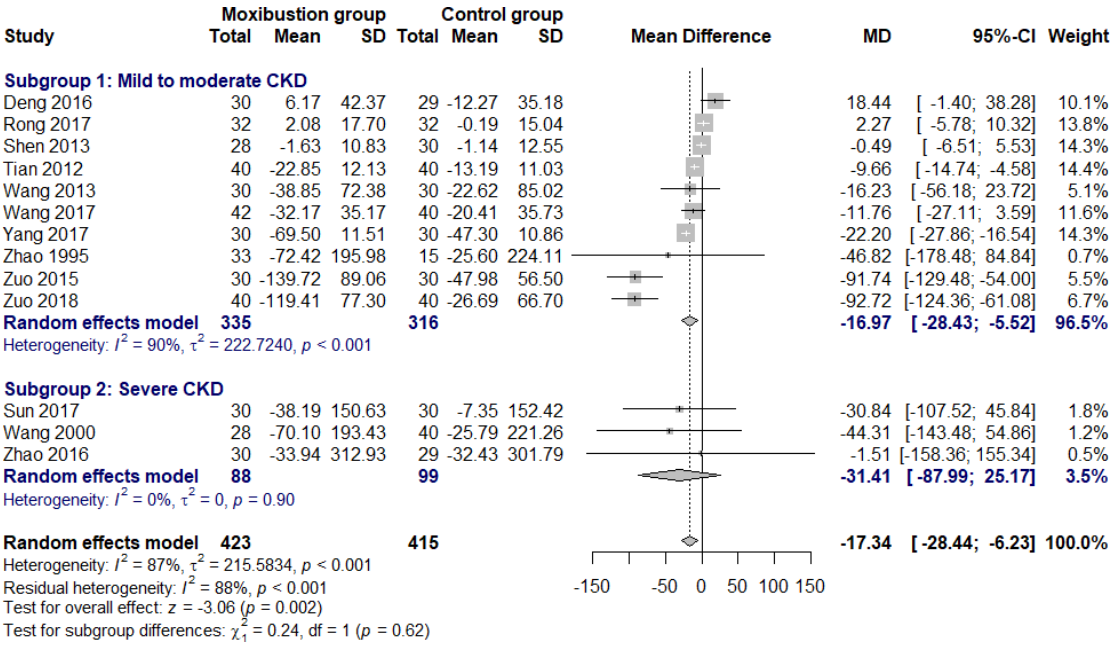

Figure S1. Subgroup analysis stratified by different stage of moxibustion for changes in serum creatinine (μmol/L)

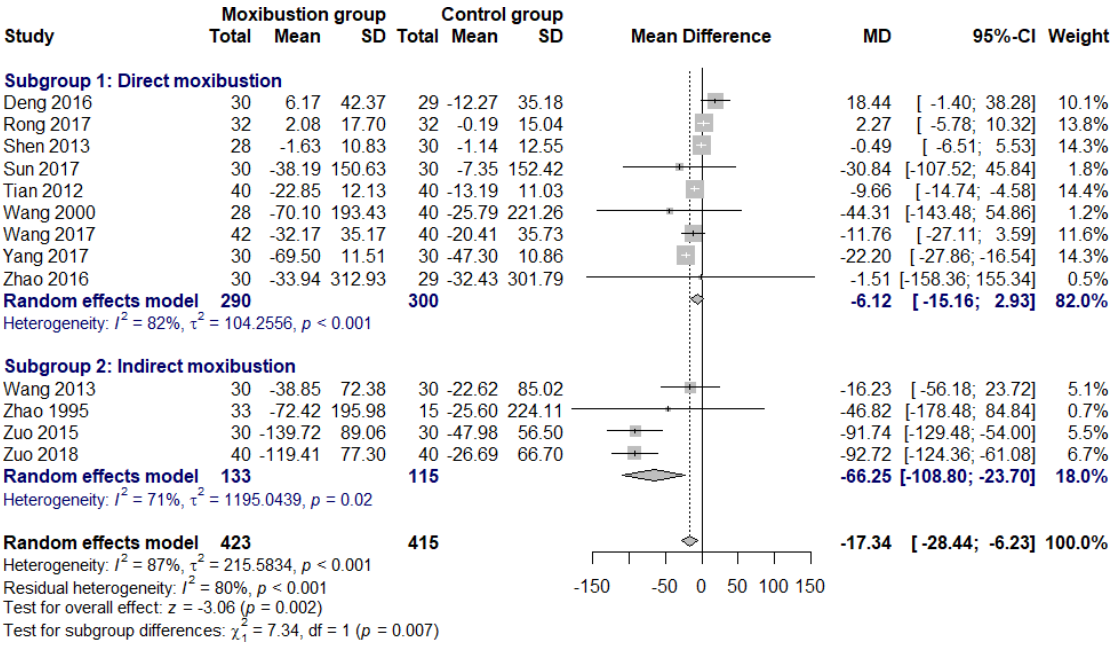

Figure S2. Subgroup analysis stratified by different type of moxibustion for changes in serum creatinine (μmol/L)

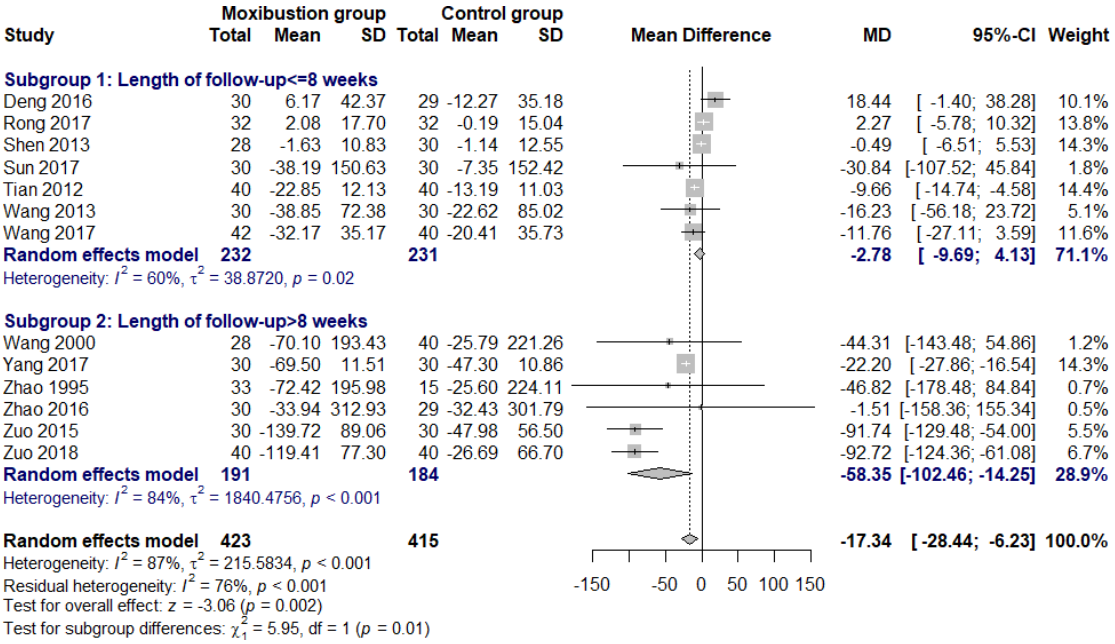

Figure S3. Subgroup analysis stratified by different follow-up of moxibustion for changes in serum creatinine (μmol/L)

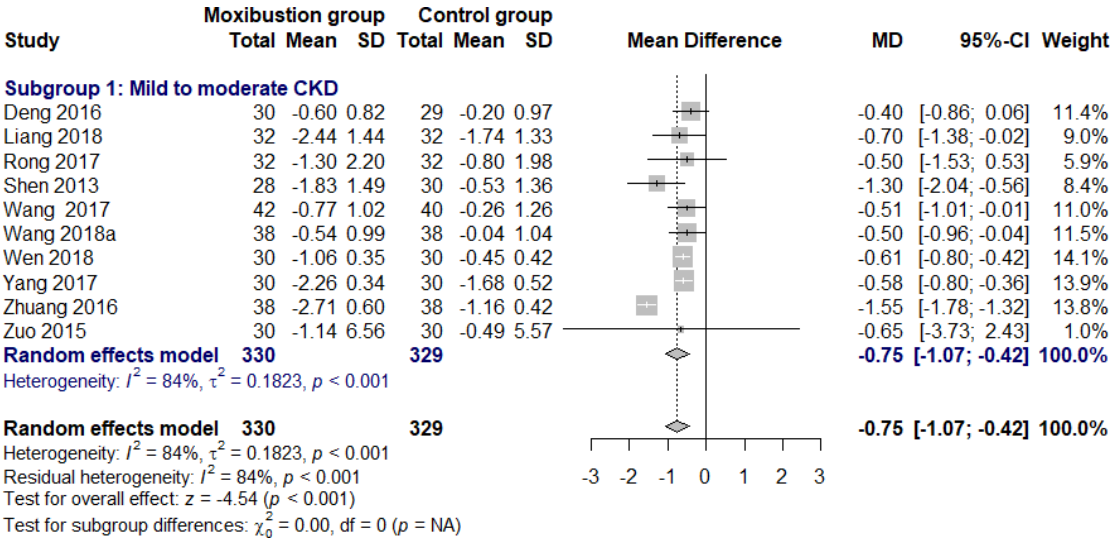

Figure S4. Subgroup analysis stratified by different stage of moxibustion for changes in 24-hour urine protein excretion (g/h)

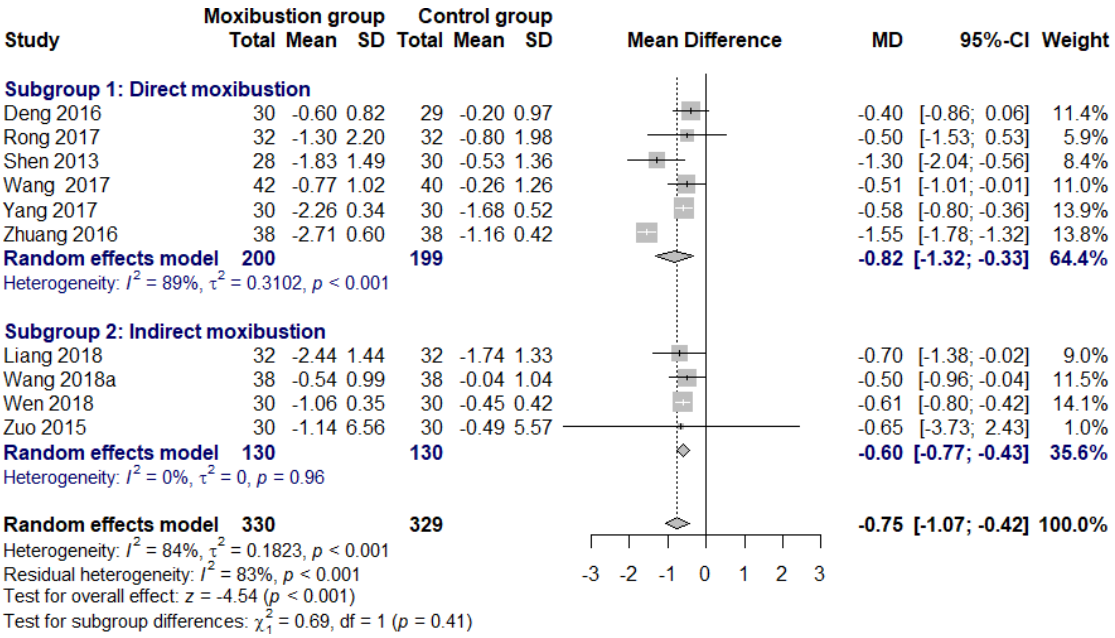

Figure S5. Subgroup analysis stratified by different type of moxibustion for changes in 24-hour urine protein excretion (g/h)

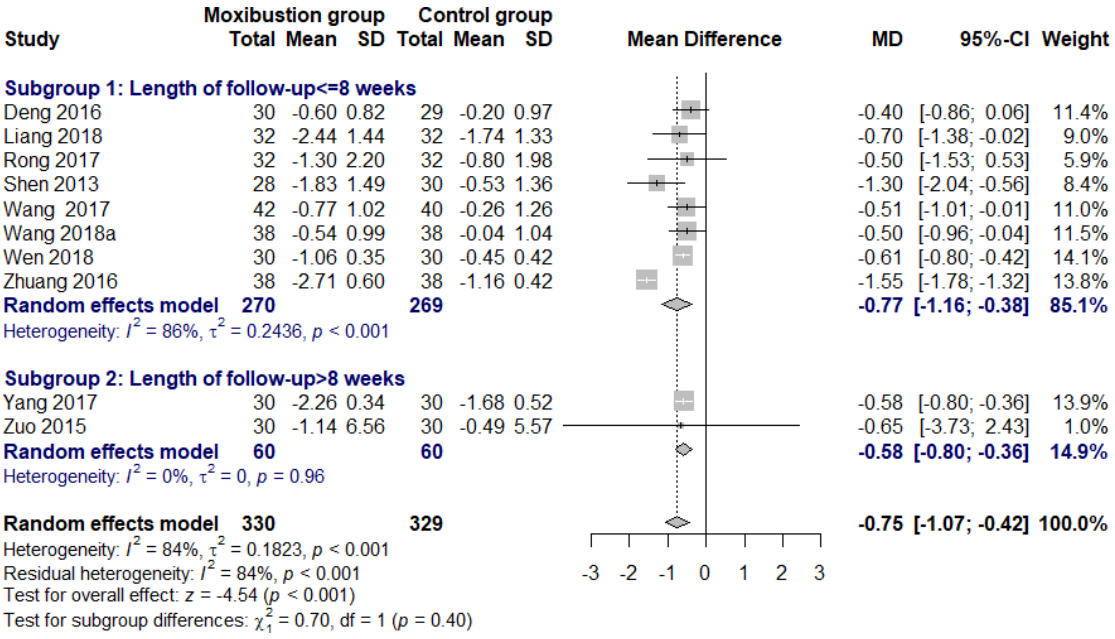

Figure S6. Subgroup analysis stratified by different follow-up of moxibustion for changes in 24-hour urine protein excretion (g/h)

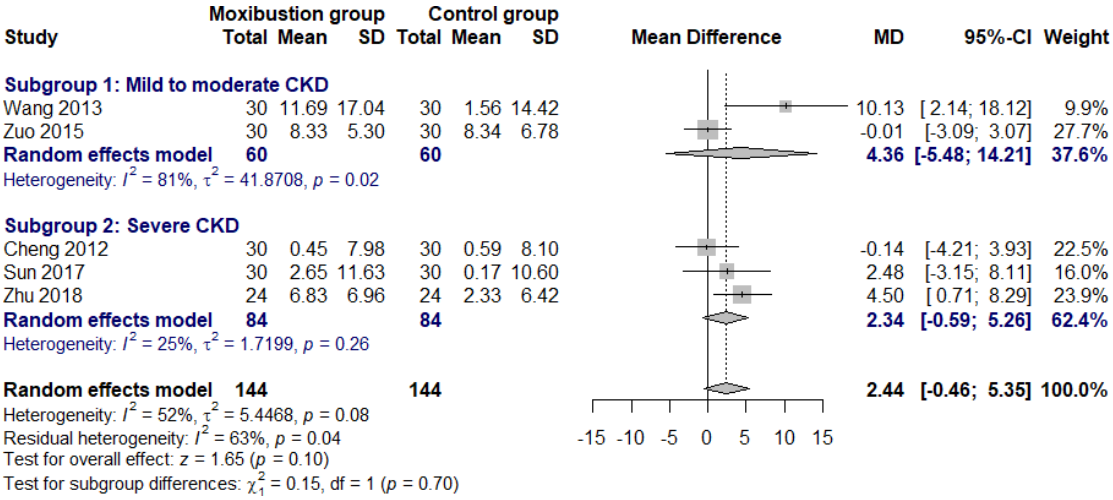

Figure S7. Subgroup analysis stratified by different stage of moxibustion for changes in creatinine clearance (mL/min)

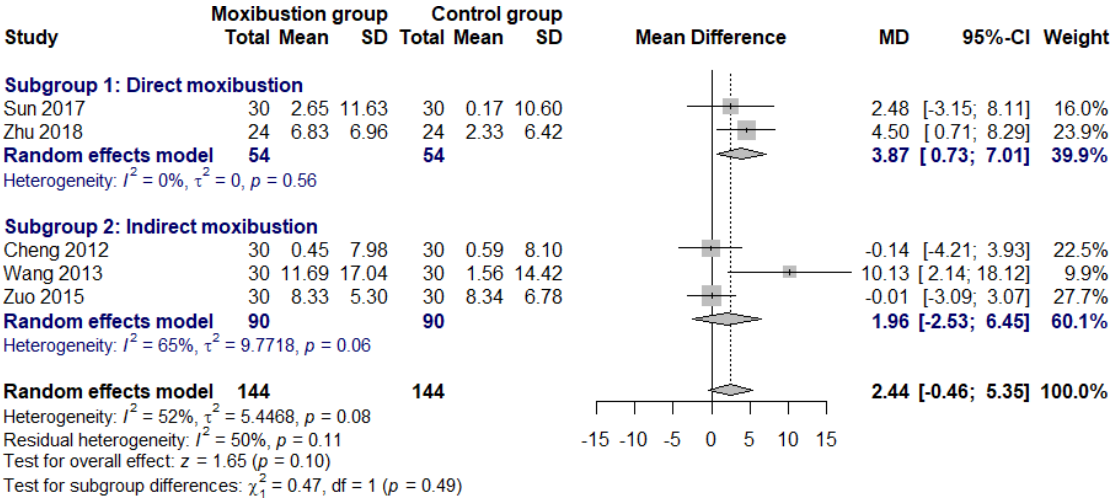

Figure S8. Subgroup analysis stratified by different type of moxibustion for changes in creatinine clearance (mL/min)

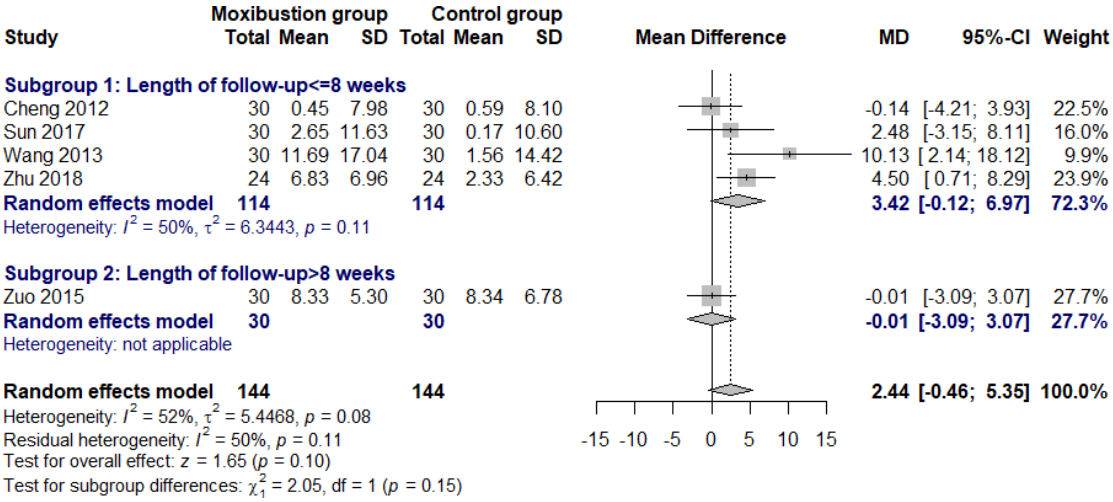

Figure S9. Subgroup analysis stratified by different follow-up of moxibustion for changes in creatinine clearance (mL/min)

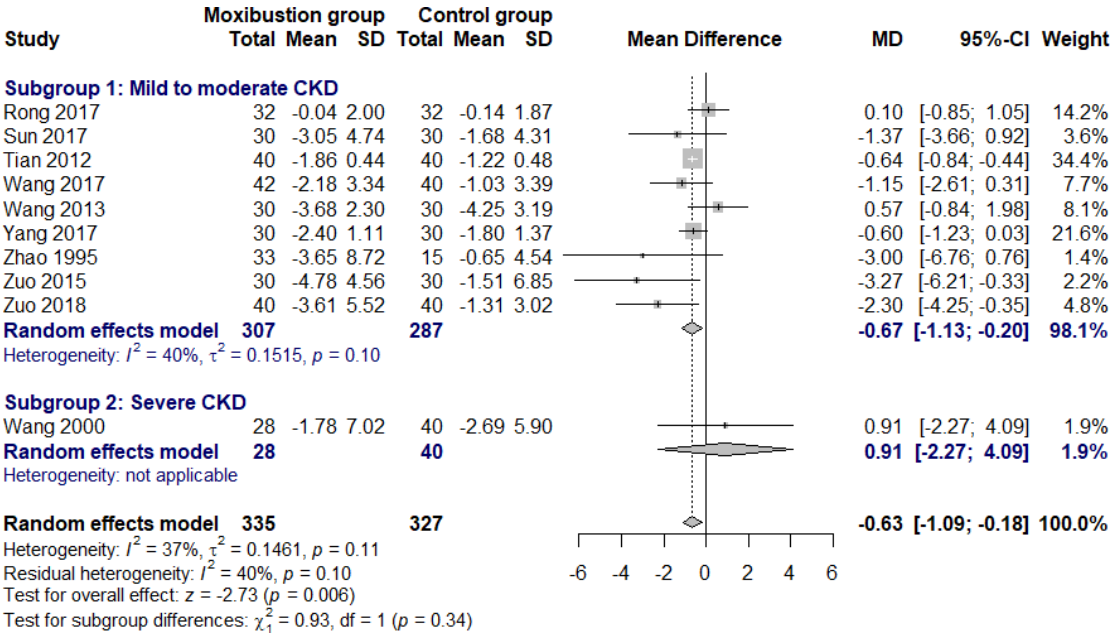

Figure S10. Subgroup analysis stratified by different stage of moxibustion for changes in blood urea nitrogen (mmol/L)

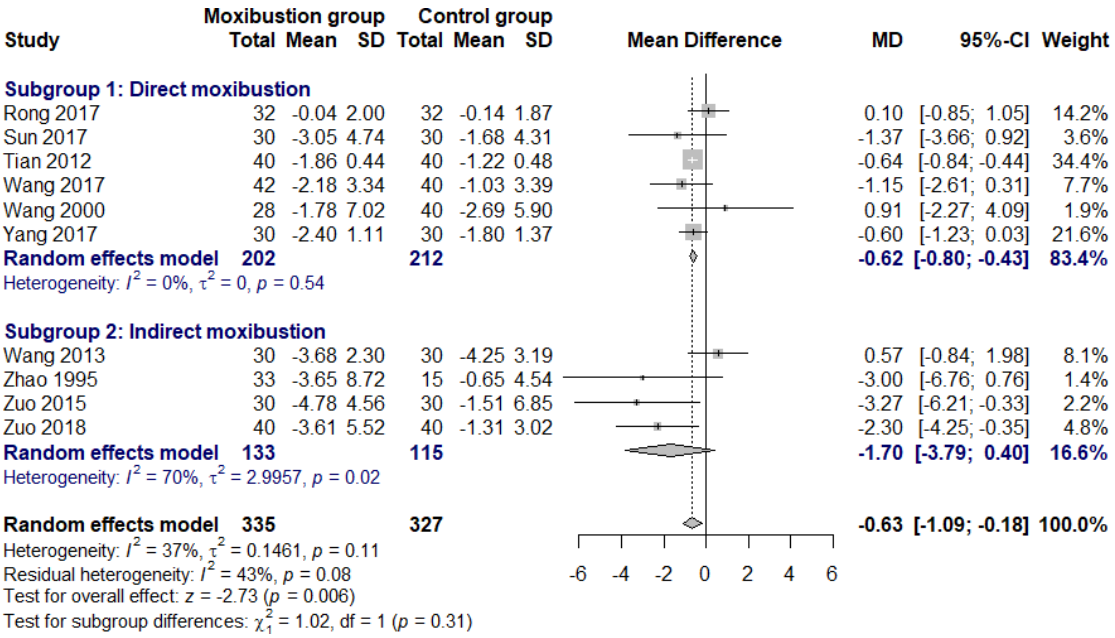

Figure S11. Subgroup analysis stratified by different type of moxibustion for changes in blood urea nitrogen (mmol/L)

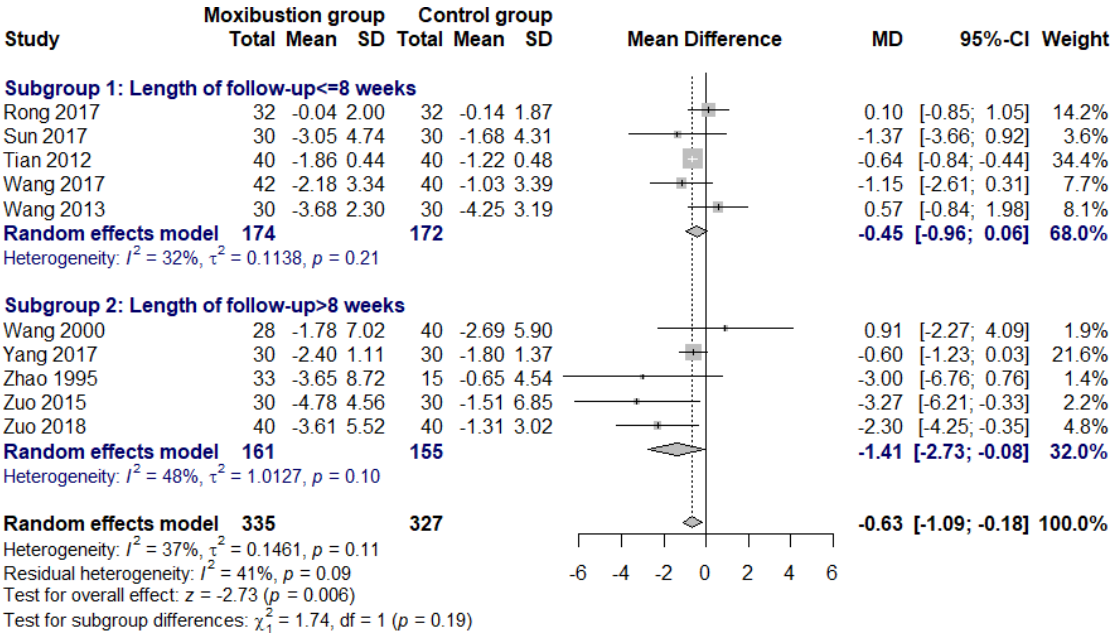

Figure S12. Subgroup analysis stratified by different follow-up of moxibustion for changes in blood urea nitrogen (mmol/L)

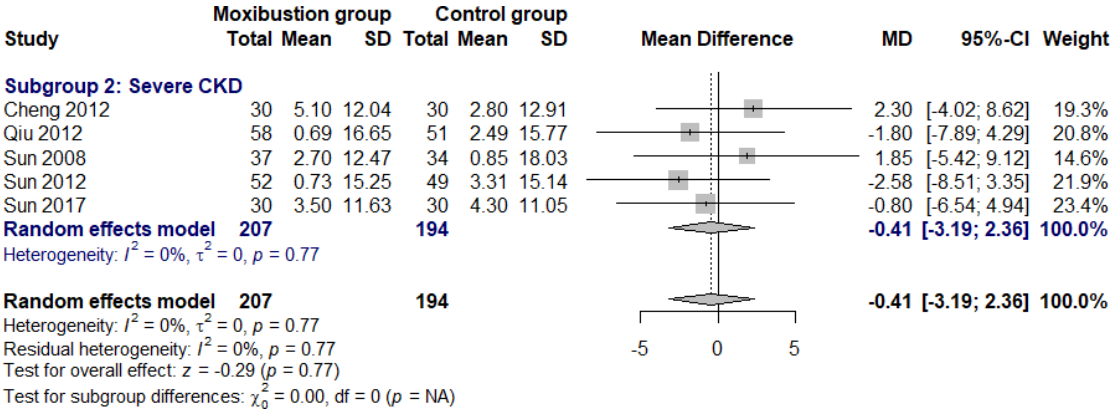

Figure S13. Subgroup analysis stratified by different stage of moxibustion for changes in hemoglobin (g/L)

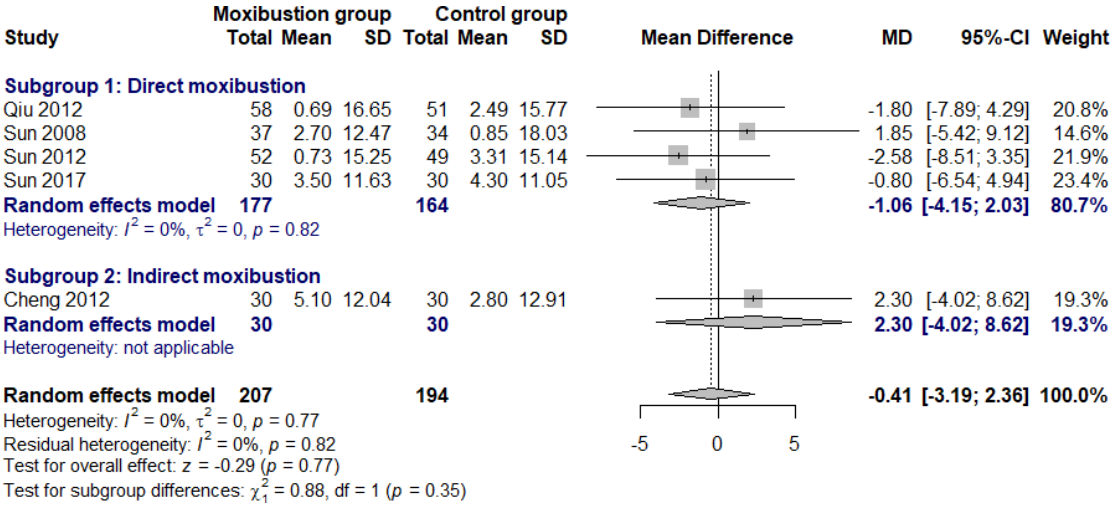

Figure S14. Subgroup analysis stratified by different type of moxibustion for changes in hemoglobin (g/L)

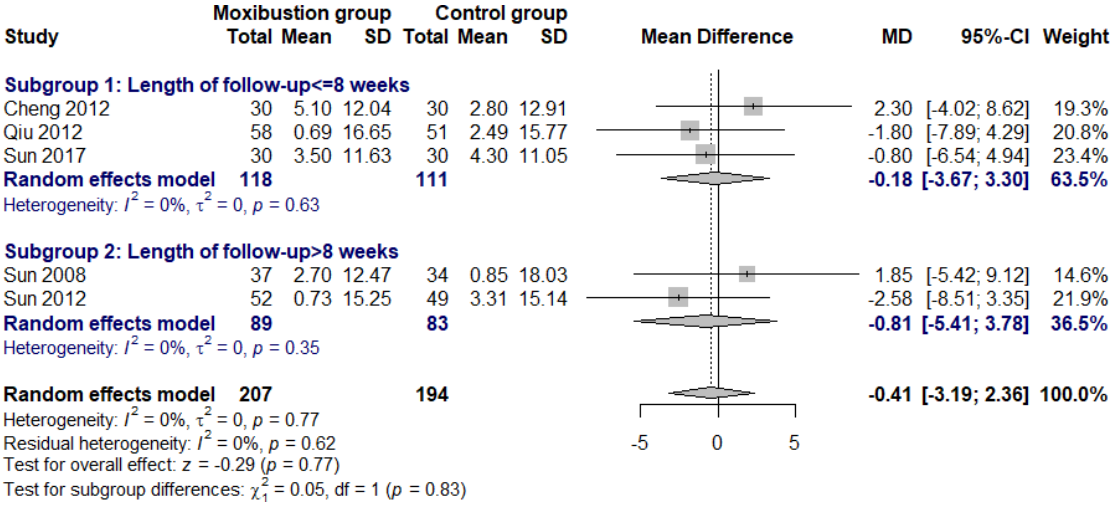

Figure S15. Subgroup analysis stratified by different follow-up of moxibustion for changes in hemoglobin (g/L)

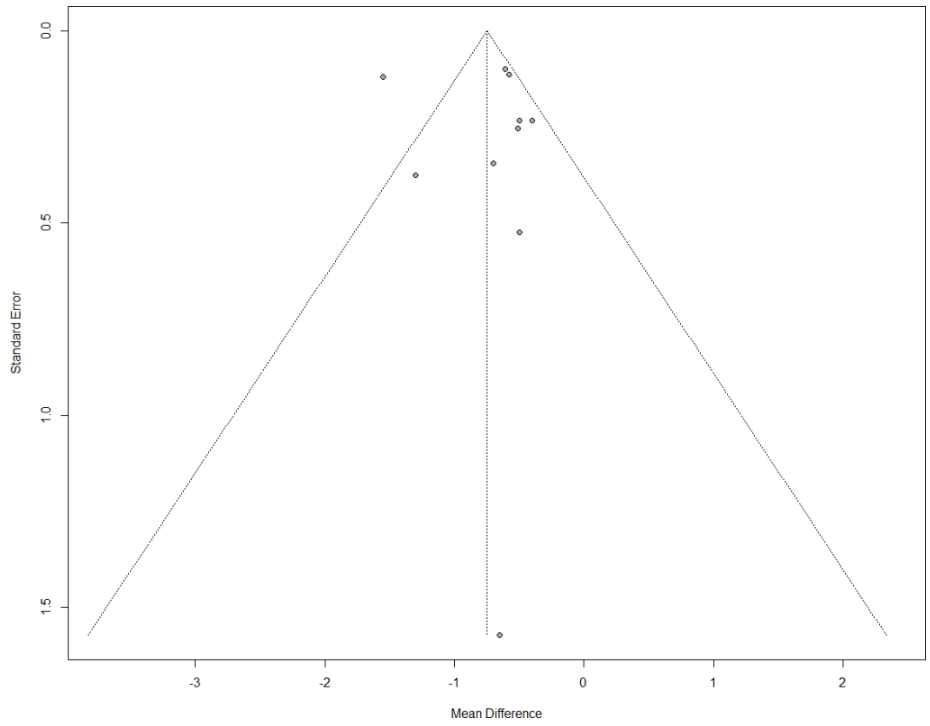

Figure S16. Funnel plot of 24-hour urine protein excretion

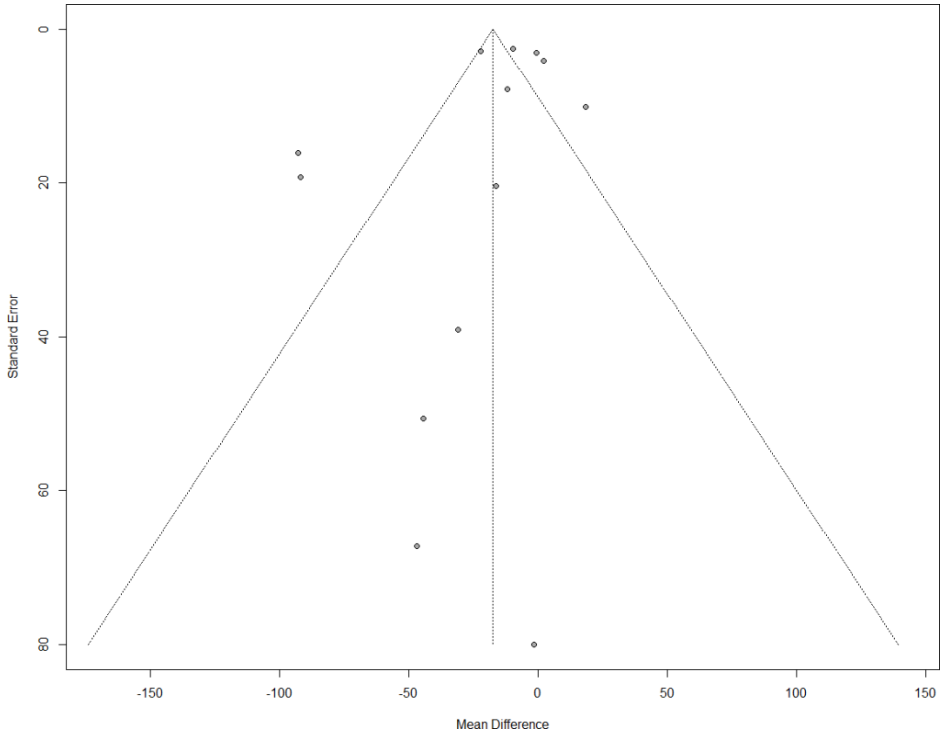

Figure S17. Funnel plot of serum creatinine

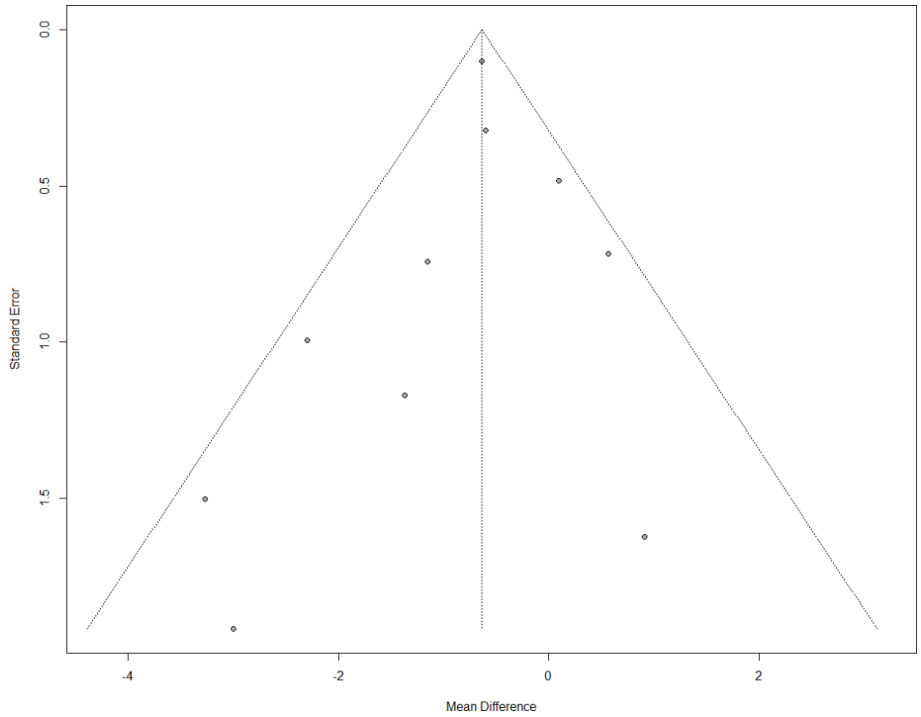

Figure S18. Funnel plot of blood urea nitrogen