

Study	Total number of patients	Risk as patients with AE per 100 patients [95%-CI]									
		Bleeding	Needle sit pain	Other local AE	Vegetative reaction	Aggravation of symptoms	Central nervous system	Peripheral nervous system	Distant pain	Gastrointestinal / gynaecological system	Unclassified AE
List 1992	29		44.83 [27.46; 62.87]		58.62 [40.52; 75.59]	93.10 [81.26; 99.30]	37.93 [21.45; 55.99]	27.59 [13.14; 44.96]		17.24 [5.94; 32.83]	3.45 [0.00; 12.99]
Chung 2015	59	15.25 [7.30; 25.45]	32.20 [20.99; 44.57]	35.59 [23.97; 48.14]	13.56 [6.10; 23.38]		5.08 [0.99; 12.08]	11.86 [4.94; 21.26]		5.08 [0.99; 12.08]	3.39 [0.33; 9.47]
Wen 2016	120	0.83 [0.00; 3.24]	2.50 [0.48; 6.04]						0.83 [0.00; 3.24]		
Melchart 1998	121	3.31 [0.88; 7.21]	14.05 [8.46; 20.78]	1.65 [0.16; 4.68]	8.26 [4.05; 13.81]	10.74 [5.88; 16.85]	2.48 [0.48; 5.99]	0.83 [0.00; 3.21]	0.83 [0.00; 3.21]	4.13 [1.33; 8.39]	
Leung 2009	254	2.36 [0.86; 4.58]									
Yamashita 2000	391		0.26 [0.00; 1.00]	1.02 [0.27; 2.26]	11.76 [8.76; 15.14]	2.81 [1.41; 4.68]	0.77 [0.15; 1.87]				
Ernst 2003	409	25.18 [21.10; 29.50]	8.07 [5.63; 10.90]	0.24 [0.00; 0.96]	6.36 [4.20; 8.92]	0.98 [0.26; 2.16]	6.11 [4.00; 8.64]	4.89 [3.01; 7.19]		1.96 [0.84; 3.52]	17.85 [14.29; 21.70]
Zhao 2011	1968	3.40 [2.65; 4.25]	0.05 [0.00; 0.20]		0.10 [0.01; 0.29]		0.05 [0.00; 0.20]			0.05 [0.00; 0.20]	
Furuse 2017	2180	12.80 [11.43; 14.23]	6.24 [5.26; 7.29]			1.06 [0.67; 1.53]					1.10 [0.71; 1.58]
Weidenhammer 2008 patients	5998	0.48 [0.32; 0.67]	0.32 [0.19; 0.47]	0.32 [0.19; 0.47]	2.72 [2.32; 3.14]	0.80 [0.59; 1.04]	0.90 [0.68; 1.16]	0.47 [0.31; 0.66]	0.95 [0.72; 1.21]	0.62 [0.43; 0.83]	0.47 [0.31; 0.66]
MacPherson 2004	6348	0.58 [0.41; 0.79]	1.86 [1.54; 2.21]	0.36 [0.23; 0.53]	4.69 [4.19; 5.23]	1.20 [0.94; 1.48]	0.87 [0.65; 1.11]	0.65 [0.46; 0.86]	0.17 [0.09; 0.29]	0.96 [0.74; 1.22]	0.38 [0.24; 0.54]
Melchart 2004	97733	4.56 [4.43; 4.70]	3.28 [3.17; 3.39]	0.18 [0.15; 0.20]	0.48 [0.44; 0.53]	0.12 [0.10; 0.14]					0.33 [0.29; 0.36]
Endres 2004	190924	5.18 [5.08; 5.28]	0.05 [0.04; 0.06]	24.51 [24.31; 24.70]	0.70 [0.67; 0.74]	1.31 [1.26; 1.36]	0.08 [0.07; 0.10]				0.07 [0.05; 0.08]
Witt 2009	229230	6.15 [6.05; 6.24]	0.45 [0.43; 0.48]	0.60 [0.57; 0.63]	0.30 [0.28; 0.33]	0.40 [0.38; 0.43]	0.26 [0.24; 0.28]	0.26 [0.24; 0.28]	0.76 [0.72; 0.79]	0.22 [0.20; 0.24]	0.11 [0.10; 0.12]
Weidenhammer 2008 therapists	503397	4.84 [4.78; 4.90]	3.95 [3.90; 4.01]	0.15 [0.14; 0.16]	0.08 [0.07; 0.08]	0.08 [0.07; 0.09]				0.01 [0.01; 0.02]	0.26 [0.25; 0.28]
Fixed effect		5.09 [5.05; 5.13]	1.81 [1.78; 1.84]	1.85 [1.83; 1.88]	0.25 [0.24; 0.26]	0.29 [0.28; 0.30]	0.28 [0.26; 0.31]	0.18 [0.17; 0.19]	0.74 [0.71; 0.77]	0.06 [0.05; 0.06]	0.19 [0.18; 0.20]
Random effect		4.67 [2.08; 8.22]	3.75 [0.74; 8.94]	2.79 [0.02; 10.01]	1.95 [0.40; 4.63]	1.48 [0.00; 5.90]	1.45 [0.07; 4.51]	0.69 [0.02; 2.34]	0.60 [0.21; 1.20]	0.60 [0.04; 1.81]	0.57 [0.01; 1.95]
tau <sup>2</sup>		0.0008	0.0085	0.0494	0.0012	0.0017	0.0018	0.0004	0.0005	0.0008	0.0003
I <sup>2</sup>		99.4% [99.3%; 99.5%]	99.9% [99.9%; 99.9%]	100.0% [100.0%; 100.0%]	99.7% [99.7%; 99.7%]	99.8% [99.8%; 99.8%]	96.3% [94.6%; 97.5%]	98.1% [97.4%; 98.7%]	92.6% [85.7%; 96.2%]	99.3% [99.1%; 99.4%]	99.0% [98.7%; 99.2%]
p-value Q-test		< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001

Study	Total number of patients	Risk as patients with AE per 100 patients [95%-CI]								
		Headache	Cardiovascular system	Motor system	Generalized skin reaction	Needling malpractice	Emotional interference	Sleeping problems	Moxibustion AE	Respiratory system
List 1992	29			41,38 [24,41; 59,48]				20,69 [8,19; 37,03]		
Chung 2015	59	13.56 [6.0980; 23.38]			1,69 [0,00; 6,52]	0,00 [0,00; 1,62]				
Wen 2016	120									
Melchart 1998	121		0.83 [0,00; 3,21]				0,83 [0,00; 3,21]			
Leung 2009	254									
Yamashita 2000	391	0.51 [0,0485; 1,46]								
Ernst 2003	409	0.49 [0,0463; 1,40]	0.49 [0,05; 1,40]	0,24 [0,00; 0,96]			0,98 [0,26; 2,16]			0,24 [0,00; 0,96]
Zhao 2011	1968			0,10 [0,01; 0,29]						
Furuse 2017	2180	0.05 [0,0000; 0,18]				0,60 [0,32; 0,96]		0,96 [0,60; 1,42]		
Weidenhammer 2008 patients	5998	1.37 [1,0889; 1,68]	0.60 [0,42; 0,81]	0,35 [0,22; 0,52]				0,13 [0,06; 0,24]		0,07 [0,02; 0,15]
MacPherson 2004	6348	1.21 [0,9585; 1,50]				1,04 [0,81; 1,30]	1,24 [0,99; 1,53]	0,74 [0,54; 0,97]	0,44 [0,29; 0,62]	
Melchart 2004	97733	0.04 [0,0275; 0,05]				0,25 [0,22; 0,28]				
Endres 2004	190924					0,00 [0,00; 0,00]	0,04 [0,03; 0,05]	0,04 [0,03; 0,05]	0,00 [0,00; 0,00]	
Witt 2009	229230	0.52 [0,4944; 0,55]	0.27 [0,25; 0,29]	0,08 [0,07; 0,09]	0,09 [0,08; 0,10]	0,01 [0,00; 0,01]	0,09 [0,08; 0,11]	0,04 [0,03; 0,05]	0,01 [0,00; 0,01]	0,02 [0,01; 0,02]
Weidenhammer 2008 therapists	503397	0.03 [0,0287; 0,04]	0.42 [0,40; 0,43]			0,28 [0,27; 0,30]	, 0,0197 [0,02; 0,02]			
Fixed effect		0.12 [0,11; 0,13]		0,09 [0,08; 0,10]	0,09 [0,08; 0,10]	0,11 [0,11; 0,12]	0,04 [0,04; 0,04]	0,05 [0,04; 0,05]	0,00 [0,00; 0,01]	0,02 [0,01; 0,02]
Random effect		0.51 [0,03; 1,55]	0.40 [0,24; 0,61]	0,38 [0,00; 4,79]	0,35 [0,00; 35,67]	0,22 [0,01; 0,67]	0,20 [0,00; 0,81]	0,16 [0,00; 0,91]	0,14 [0,00; 1,16]	0,04 [0,00; 0,26]
tau <sup>2</sup>		0.0012	0.0001	0.0011	0.0029	0.0009	0.0002	0.0001	0.0002	0.0001
I <sup>2</sup>		99.6% [99.6%; 99.7%]	96.4% [93.9%; 97.9%]	94.6% [90.2%; 97.1%]	= 58.2% [0.0%; 90.1%]	99.7% [99.7%; 99.8%]	98.7% [98.2%; 99.1%]	97.1% [95.3%; 98.2%]	98.3% [97.3%; 99.0%]	69.0% [0.0%; 91.0%]
p-value Q-test		< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	0.1221	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	< 0.0001	0.0398

### Online supplementary appendix S6: Risks for different types of adverse events per 100 patients undergoing an acupuncture series as reported in single studies

Summary risk estimates of adverse events (AE) derived from random effects meta-analyses displayed in table 4