

Table 1 Search strategy used in the PubMed database

#	Searches
1	Osteoarthritis, Knee[mesh]
2	Knee Osteoarthritides OR Knee Osteoarthritis OR Osteoarthritis of Knee OR Osteoarthritis of the Knee OR Osteoarthritis, Knee OR KOA[Title/Abstract]
3	Patellofemoral Pain Syndrome[mesh]
4	Pain Syndrome, Patellofemoral OR Anterior Knee Pain Syndrome OR Patellofemoral Syndrome OR Patellofemoral Pain OR Pain, Patellofemoral OR Patellofemoral Pains[Title/Abstract]
5	knee pain[Title/Abstract]
6	gonarthrosis[Title/Abstract]
7	OR/1-6
8	Acupuncture[mesh]
9	Pharmacopuncture[Title/Abstract]
10	Acupuncture Therapy[mesh]
11	Acupuncture Treatment OR Acupuncture Treatments OR Treatment, Acupuncture OR Therapy, Acupuncture OR Pharmacoacupuncture Treatment OR Treatment, Pharmacoacupuncture OR Pharmacoacupuncture Therapy OR Therapy, Pharmacoacupuncture[Title/Abstract]
12	Electroacupuncture[mesh]
13	Acupuncture Points[mesh]
14	Acupuncture Point OR Point, Acupuncture OR Points, Acupuncture OR Acupoints OR Acupoint[Title/Abstract]
15	OR/8-14
16	clinical[tiab]
17	trial[tiab]
18	16 AND 17
19	clinical trials as topic[mesh]
20	clinical trial[pt]
21	random*[tiab]
22	random allocation[mesh]
23	therapeutic use[sh]
24	OR/18-23
25	7 AND 15 AND 24