

Appendix 1: Search strategy used in PubMed database

#1 randomized controlled trial [pt]

#2 controlled clinical trial [pt]

#3 clinical trials [MeSH]

#4 randomized [tiab]

#5 trial [ti]

#6 randomly [tiab]

#7 placebo [tiab]

#8 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7

#9 humans [MeSH]

#10 #8 and #9

#11 amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [MeSH]

#12 motor neuron disease [MeSH]

#13 (ALS or MND): ti,ab

#14 #11 or #12 or #13

#15 acupuncture therapy (MeSH)

#16 (acupuncture or electroacupuncture or manual acupuncture or acupoint or meridian or scalp acupuncture or elongated acupuncture or abdominal acupuncture):

ti,ab

#17 #15 or #16

#18 #10 and #14 and #17

Appendix 2: Acupoint combinations by means of complex network analysis (weight \geq 30).

Order	Acupoint	Combinations	Weight
1	Hegu (LI 4)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	75
2	Quchi (LI 11)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	66
3	Quchi (LI 11)	— Hegu (LI 4)	65
4	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	54
5	Hegu (LI 4)	— Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	54
6	Quchi (LI 11)	— Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	49
7	Qihai (RN 6)	— Hegu (LI 4)	40
8	Hegu (LI 4)	— Yanglingquan (GB 34)	40
9	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Yanglingquan (GB 34)	40
10	Qihai (RN 6)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	40
11	Hegu (LI 4)	— Jianyu (LI 15)	38
12	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Jiexi (ST 41)	38
13	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Jianyu (LI 15)	38
14	Hegu (LI 4)	— Jiexi (ST 41)	38
15	Pishu (BL 20)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	37
16	Qihai (RN 6)	— Quchi (LI 11)	36
17	Shenshu (BL 23)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	36
18	Quchi (LI 11)	— Jiexi (ST 41)	35
19	Ganshu (BL 18)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	35
20	Quchi (LI 11)	— Jianyu (LI 15)	35
21	Hegu (LI 4)	— Zhongwan (RN 12)	34
22	Pishu (BL 20)	— Hegu (LI 4)	34
23	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Zhongwan (RN 12)	34
24	Neiguan (PC 6)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	34
25	Guanyuan (RN 4)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	33
26	Neiguan (PC 6)	— Hegu (LI 4)	33
27	Qihai (RN 6)	— Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	33
28	Shousanli (LI 10)	— Zusanli (ST 36)	33
29	Shenshu (BL 23)	— Hegu (LI 4)	33
30	Hegu (LI 4)	— Futu (ST 32)	33
31	Guanyuan (RN 4)	— Hegu (LI 4)	33
32	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Futu (ST 32)	32
33	Ganshu (BL 18)	— Hegu (LI 4)	32
34	Quchi (LI 11)	— Zhongwan (RN 12)	32
35	Shousanli (LI 10)	— Hegu (LI 4)	32
36	Guanyuan (RN 4)	— Quchi (LI 11)	31
37	Quchi (LI 11)	— Yanglingquan (GB 34)	31
38	Quchi (LI 11)	— Futu (ST 32)	31
39	Pishu (BL 20)	— Quchi (LI 11)	31
40	Yanglingquan (GB 34)	— Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	31
41	Waiguan (SJ 5)	— Hegu (LI 4)	30
42	Hegu (LI 4)	— Jiaji (EX-B2)	30
43	Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	— Zhongwan (RN 12)	30
44	Zusanli (ST 36)	— Jiaji (EX-B2)	30

Appendix 3: Acupoint combinations by means of association rule analysis from acupoints (> 10 times).

Acupoint	Combinations	Support	Confidence	Lift
Quchi (LI 11)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.52	1	1.5
Sanyinjiao (SP 6)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.43	0.9	1.35
Shousanli (LI 10)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.31	1	1.5
Jianyu (LI15), Shousanli (LI10)——	Hegu (LI 4)	0.31	1	1.5
Ganshu (BL 18)——	Shenshu (BL 23)	0.31	1	3.0
Qihai (RN 6)——	Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	0.31	0.93	1.95
Shenshu (BL 23)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.31	0.93	1.39
Shenshu (BL 23)——	Ganshu (BL 18)	0.31	0.93	3.0
Shousanli (LI10), Jianyu (LI15)——	Quchi (LI 11)	0.29	0.92	1.76
Jianyu (LI 15), Ganshu (BL 18)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.29	0.92	1.38
Jiexi (ST 41)——	Quchi (LI 11)	0.26	1	1.91
Jiexi (ST 41)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.26	1	1.5
Guanyuan (RN 4)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.26	1	1.5
Jiexi (ST41), Guanyuan (RN4)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.26	1	1.5
Pishu (BL 20)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.26	0.92	1.38
Taixi (KI 3)——	Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	0.26	1	2.1
Taixi (KI 3)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.26	1	1.5
Waiguan (SJ 5)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.24	1	1.5
Futu (ST 32)——	Quchi (LI 11)	0.24	1	1.91
Waiguan (SJ 5), Futu (ST 32)——	Zusanli (ST 36)	0.24	1	1.5
Futu (ST 32)——	Hegu (LI 4), Zusanli (ST 36)	0.24	1	1.5
Guanyuan (RN 4)——	Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	0.24	0.91	1.91
Guanyuan (RN 4)——	Quchi (LI 11)	0.24	0.91	1.74
Guanyuan (RN 4)——	Qihai (RN 6)	0.24	0.91	2.73
Waiguan (SJ 5)——	Sanyinjiao (SP 6)	0.21	0.90	1.89
Waiguan (SJ 5)——	Yanglingquan (GB 34)	0.21	0.90	1.99
Waiguan (SJ 5)——	Quchi (LI 11)	0.21	0.90	1.72