Table 1 Characteristics of systematic reviews

ID	First author Year	Country	Therapeutic area	Disease or condition	No. of RCTs	No. of participants	Patient important outcomes	Interventions vs Controls	Quality assessment tool for original studies included in SR
1	Juan Zhu 2019	China	Periprocedural care	Postoperative pain	35	1819	1.Postoperative resting pain intensity at 24h (VAS)	1.electro-acupuncture/ ear(auricular) acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Intensity of postoperative pain on movement or cough at 24h (VAS)	2. electro -acupuncture/ TENS vs sham acupuncture	
2	Kai-Bo Che 2019	China	Periprocedural care	Postoperative ileus after abdominal surgery	15	965	1.Time to first flatus	1. electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Time to first defecation	2. electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
							3.Time to bowel sound recovery	3. electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
							4.Time to first oral feeding	4.electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
							5.Length of hospital stay	5. electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
3	Lu Jing 2018	China	Periprocedural care	Hot flashes after breast can	9	646	1.Hot flashes after breast cancer surgery	1.body needling vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias

							2. Hot flashes after breast cancer surgery	2.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	tool
							3.Hot flashes after breast cancer surgery	3.body needling/ electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							4. Hot flashes after breast cancer surgery (follow-up for 3 months)	4.body needling/ electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							5. Hot flashes after breast cancer surgery (follow-up for 3 months)	5.body needling/ electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
4	Yongjun ZHU 2017	China	Periprocedural care	Pain control after total knee arthroplasty	6	529	1.Pain intensity (VAS) over a period of 24h	1.TENS vs sham acupuncture	Jadad score
5	T.-J. Chien 2020	China	Oncology	Breast cancer-related menopause symptoms	13	943	1. Frequency of hot flushes in breast cancer (3 months after treatment)	1.body needling vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool + Jadad score
							2. Severity of hot flushes in breast cancer (3 months after treatment)	2.body needling vs standard of care	
							3.Menopause symptoms in breast cancer (3 months after treatment)	3.body needling vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Menopause symptoms in breast cancer (3 months after treatment)	4. body needling vs standard of care	

6	Yihan He 2019	China	Oncology	Cancer pain	17	1111	1.Cancer Pain Intensity	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Cancer Pain Intensity	2.acupuncture vs waiting list	
7	Lawrence Chen 2017	China	Oncology	Aromatase inhibitor-induced arthralgia in breast cancer	5	181	1.The severity of post treatment pain（worst pain at 3-4weeks)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.The severity of post treatment pain (pain severity at 3-4weeks)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.The severity of post treatment pain (pain-related interference scores at 3-4week)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Stiffness at 3-4 weeks	4.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							5.Function at 3-4 weeks	5.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
8	Pei Lixia 2019	China	Oncology	The quality of life of breast cancer patients	7	453	1.Quality of life	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Quality of life	2.auricular point sticking vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Quality of life	3.auricular point sticking vs standard of care	
9	Wei-Wei Tao 2016	China	Oncology	Symptom management of cancer	68	5530	1.Fatigue (BFI)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2. Fatigue (BPI)	2.acupuncture vs standard of care	

							3.Remission rate of diarrhea	3.acupuncture vs standard of care	
							4.Hiccups	4.acupuncture vs standard of care	
							5.Nausea and vomit	5.acupuncture vs standard of care	
10	Mangmang Xu 2018	China	Neurology	Acute stroke	33	3946	1.Death or dependency at end of follow-up	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Death or dependency at end of follow-up	2.acupuncture vs no intervention	
							3.Death or dependency at end of follow-up (⩾3 months)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Death or dependency at end of follow-up (⩾3 months)	4.acupuncture vs no intervention	
11	Shaonan Liu 2019	China	Neurology	Post-stroke shoulder-hand syndrome	40	3264	1.Motor function (upper limb FMA)	1.electro-acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Motor function (upper limb FMA)	2.manual acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
							3.Pain improvement (VAS)	3.electro-acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
							4.Pain improvement (VAS)	4.manual acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
							5.Activities of daily living (MBI)	5.manual acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
							6.Improvement in shoulder abduction (ROM)	6.manual acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	

12	Wenjuan Fan 2020	China	Neurology	Post-stroke spastic hemiplegia	36	2628	1.Motor function (FMA)	1.manual acupuncture vs rehabilitation	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Motor function (FMA)	2.electro-acupuncture vs rehabilitation	
							3.Spasticity Assessment (ASS)	3.manual acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture + rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
							4.Quality of daily life (BI)	4.manual acupuncture/electro acupuncture+ rehabilitation vs rehabilitation	
13	Binlong Zhang 2019	China	Neurology	Post-stroke aphasia	28	1747	1.Functional communication	1.acupuncture/scalp acupuncture + language rehabilitation vs language rehabilitation	Cochrane risk of bias tool
14	Xue-bin Li 2018	China	Neurology	Post-stroke depression	18	1536	1.Depression(HAMD) (at week 4 after treatment)	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
15	Xiaolan Lin 2016	China	Neurology	Post-stroke cognitive impairment	19	1275	1.Cognitive function (MMSE)	1.manual acupuncture/electro acupuncture /scalp acupuncture vs standard of care	NA
							2.Cognitive function (ADL)	2.manual acupuncture/scalp acupuncture vs standard of care	
							3.Cognitive function (MoCA)	3.manual acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
16	Lin Guohua 2016	China	Neurology	Neurological function deficit	6	572	1.Neurological impairment (NDS) (at week 4 after	1.body needling vs rehabilitation	Cochrane risk of bias

				of non-acute stage stroke			treatment)		tool + Jadad score
17	Tong Li 2019	China	Neurology	Vascular dementia	17	1283	1.Cognitive function (HDS) (within 28 to 90 days)	1. body needling/ electro-acupuncture/scalp acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
18	Sang-Ho Kim 2019	Korean	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	22	1761	1.Sleep quality（PSQI) (within 14 to 74 days after treatment)	1.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
19	Alexander Waits 2016	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	13	968	1.Sleep quality（PSQI) (within 3 to 4 weeks)	1.acupressure vs sham acupressure	Cochrane risk of bias tool + Jadad score
20	Xintian Wang 2020	China	Neurology	Sleep quality in hemodialysis patients	7	522	1.Sleep quality（PSQI) (within 4 to 12 weeks after treatment)	1.acupressure vs sham acupuncture	Jadad score
21	Guangcai Zhang 2016	China	Neurology	Perimenopausal sleep disorder	8	539	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Sleep Quality (PSQI)	2.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
22	Cuihua Yang 2018	China	Neurology	Senile insomnia	7	539	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Jadad score
23	YingYing Zang 2019	China	Neurology	Depression-related sleep disorders	15	1081	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
24	William Gibson 2017	Australia	Neurology	Neurogenic pain	15	724	1.Pain intensity (VAS)	1.TENS vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias

									tool
25	Hyeonseok Noh 2017	Korean	Neurology	Parkinson's disease (PD)	42	2625	1.Assessment of PD symptoms (UPDRS)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
26	Boram Lee 2018	Korean	Neurology	Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)	27	1736	1.Evaluation the core features of ASD (Overall CARS score)	1.acupuncture vs behavioral and educational interventions	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Evaluation the core features of ASD (Overall CARS score)	2.acupuncture vs behavioral and educational interventions + music therapy	
27	Mingxiao Yang 2020	China	Neurology	Menstrual migraine	13	826	1.Migraine days per month	1. manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Migraine days per month (at month 3 after treatment)	2. manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Mean headache intensity (VAS)	3. manual acupuncture/electro -acupuncture vs western medicine	
28	Jia Xu 2018	China	Neurology	Migraine without aura	15	1361	1.Frequency of migraine	1.acupuncture/manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Frequency of migraine	2.acupuncture/manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Pain intensity (VAS)	3. ear acupuncture/acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Pain intensity (VAS)	4.ear acupuncture/acupuncture vs western medicine	

29	Yin Jiang 2018	China	Neurology	Migraine quality of life	62	4947	1.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≤1 month after treatment, role function-restrictive)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≥6 months after treatment, role function-restrictive)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≤1month after treatment, role function-preventive)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≥6 months after treatment, role function-preventive)	4.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							5.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≤1month after treatment, emotional function)	5.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6.Migraine quality of life (MSQ) (≥6 months after treatment, emotional function)	6.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
30	Klaus Linde 2016	Germany	Neurology	Tension headache	12	2349	1.Response after treatment (at least 50% reduction in	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias

							headache frequency) (within 3 to 4 months after randomization)		tool
31	Hwan Kim 2019	Korean	Neurology	Mild cognitive impairment (MCI)	5	257	1.Cognitive function (MMSE)	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Cognitive function (MoCA)	2.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
32	Gwang-Ho Choi 2019	Korean	Neurology	Carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS)	12	869	1.Pain (VAS)	1.laser acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS) (at week 4 after randomization)	2.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Pain (VAS) (at week 5 after randomization)	3. acupuncture vs standard of care	
							4.Key pinch-pinch strength (at a 3-month follow-up)	4.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							5.Tip pinch-pinch strength (at a 3-month follow-up)	5.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6.Improvement in functional status and/or health-related quality of life parameter (at month 3 after treatment)	6.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
33	Xinqiang Ni 2017	China	Neurology	Tic disorder	29	2325	1.Severity of tics (YGTSS)	1.electro-acupuncture/scalp acupuncture vs western medicine	Jadad score
34	Ping Wu 2017	China	Neurology	Prosopalgia	8	477	1.Recurrence rate	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias

									tool
35	Zhuanzhuan Hou 2017	China	Neurology	Cervical vertigo	10	914	1.Improvement rate of clinical symptoms-headache (at day 20 after treatment)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Improvement rate of clinical symptoms-vertigo (at day 20 after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
36	Eric Manheime, Ke Cheng 2018	USA	Connective tissue diseases	Hip osteoarthritis	6	413	1.Pain (WOMAC/VAS) (short-term-2 weeks after the end of treatment)	1.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS)	2.eletro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Function	3.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Function (Harris function score)	4.eletro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
							5.Quality of life	5.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
37	Chen Rilan 2020	China	Connective tissue diseases	Knee osteoarthritis	11	727	1.Severity of knee (ISOA)	1.eletro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool + Jadad score
38	Qinhong Zhang	China	Connective tissue diseases	Chronic knee pain	19	2149	1.Pain (WOMAC)	1. body needling vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias

	2017						2.Pain (WOMAC)	2. body needling vs standard care	tool
							3.Pain (WOMAC)	3.eletro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
39	Qi-ling Yuan 2016	China	Connective tissue diseases	Musculoskeletal pain	6	6382	1.Neck pain after the end of an intervention period (⩽1 week after treatment)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Shoulder pain after the end of an intervention period (⩽1 week after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Myofascial pain after the end of an intervention period (⩽1 week after treatment)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Arm pain after the end of an intervention period (⩽1 week after treatment)	4.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
40	Kim Jiwon 2019	Korean	Connective tissue diseases	Fibromyalgia syndrome	10	690	1.Intensity of Pain	1.manual acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Sleep Quality (PSQI)	2.manual acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Fatigue	3.manual acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	

41	Zhou Longyun 2016	China	Connective tissue diseases	Primary osteoporosis	17	1369	1.Pain (VAS)	1. body needling/ electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Jadad score
42	Wang Kaili 2019	China	Connective tissue diseases	Postmenopausal osteoporosis	10	710	1.Reduction in pain degree (VAS)	1. acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
43	Mei Ji 2015	China	Connective tissue diseases	Sciatica	12	1842	1.Pain Intensity (VAS)	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
44	Yun-xia Li 2018	China	Connective tissue diseases	Non-specific low back pain	26	7618	1.Pain （VAS）	1.manual acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS) in the immediate term (⩽1 week after treatment)	2.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Pain (VAS) in the short term (within 1 week to 3 months after treatment)	3.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Pain (VAS) in the intermediate term (within 3 to 12 months after treatment)	4.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
45	Jiaojun He 2019	China	Ear, nose, and throat disorders	Meniere's disease	12	903	1.Severity of Dizziness Handicap (DHI)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
46	Jinzhang 2017	China	Ear, nose, and throat	Allergic rhinitis	11	1805	1.Improvement of nasal symptoms (TNSS)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Jadad score

			disorders				2.Improvement of nasal symptoms（TNSS）	2. acupuncture vs western medicine	
47	Lizhong Yu 2019	China	Eye disorders	Dry eye syndrome	11	852	1.Symptom scores	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Jadad score
48	Kai Zhang 2019	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Acute pancreatitis	12	841	1.Mortality during the treatment	1.electro-acupuncture+ routine treatment vs routine treatment	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Rate of transfer to surgery or ICU	2.electro-acupuncture+ routine treatment vs routine treatment	
							3.Changes in chronic health evaluation (APACHE II)	3.electro-acupuncture+ routine treatment vs routine treatment	
49	Haizhen Zheng 2019	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)	41	3440	1.IBS symptom scores	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Quality of life	2. acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
50	Lu Wang 2020	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Functional constipation	28	3525	1.Complete spontaneous bowel movement	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Symptoms improvement (CSS)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Patient assessment of constipation quality of Life questionnaire	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
51	Xin Jin 2018	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Functional dyspepsia	20	1310	1.Quality of life (NDI-QOLS)	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool + Jadad score
							2.Symptom scores	2.acupuncture/electro-acupunctur	

								e vs western medicine	
							3.Symptom scores	3.acupuncture vs western medicine	
52	Yao Tian 2017	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Peptic ulcer	16	1570	1.The healing rate of ulcer area	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.The recurrence rate	2. acupuncture vs western medicine	
53	Xuhan Wu 2019	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Gastroesophageal reflux disease	26	2155	1.Symptom scores	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
54	Kun Hyung Kim 2018	Korean	Gastrointestinal disorders	Symptomatic gastroparesis	32	2601	1.Symptoms improvement (within 4 to 12 weeks after treatment)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Symptoms improvement (within 4 to 12 weeks after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
55	Xindong Qin 2020	China	Genitourinary disorders	Urinary infection	5	341	1.Composite cure rate	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Recurrence	2.acupuncture vs no intervention	
							3.Recurrence	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
56	JunjunLi 2020	China	Genitourinary disorders	Chronic prostatitis	11	748	1.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI total score)	1.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Improvement of pain in chronic prostatitis	2.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham	

							(NIH-CPSI pain domain sub-score)	acupuncture	
							3.Improvement of voiding in chronic prostatitis (NIH-CPSI voiding domain sub-score)	3.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Quality of life (NIH-CPSI quality of life domain sub-score)	4.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							5.Symptoms improvement (IPSS)	5.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI total score)	6.acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
57	Wei Zhang 2017	China	Genitourinary disorders	Benign prostatic hyperplasia	8	661	1.Symptoms improvement (IPSS) (short-term) (within 4 to 6 weeks after treatment)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Symptoms improvement (IPSS) (medium-term) (within 12 to 18 weeks after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
58	Kun Hyung Kim 2016	China	Genitourinary disorders	Chronic kidney disease	24	1787	1.Depression (BDI)	1.acupressure vs routine care	Cochrane risk of bias
							2.Depression (BDI)	2.TENS vs routine care	

							3.Sleep quality	3.acupressure vs routine care	tool
							4.Sleep quality	4.TENS vs routine care	
							5.Sleep quality	5.acupressure vs western medicine	
							6.Fatigue	6.acupressure vs routine care	
59	Charlotte Southern 2016	UK	Mental health	Alcohol use disorder	15	1378	1.Alcohol craving	1. body needling/ electro-acupuncture/ear (auricular) acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool + Jadad score
							2.Alcohol withdrawal symptoms	2.electro-acupuncture/ear (auricular) acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Alcohol withdrawal symptoms	3.electro-acupuncture/ear (auricular) acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
60	Zhihan Chen 2018	China	Mental health	Opioid use disorder	9	1063	1.Number of positive urine samples for opioids	1.ear (auricular) acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Craving for opioid	2.electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							3.Craving for opioid	3.electro-acupuncture/ear (auricular) acupuncture/TENS vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Craving for opioid	4.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
							5.Depression	5.electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	

							6.Depression	6.electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
61	Jian-Hua Wang 2019	China	Mental health	Smoking cessation	24	3984	1.Abstinence rate (short-term) (≤4 weeks after treatment)	1.head and eye acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Abstinence rate (long-term) (>6 months after treatment)	2.head and eye acupuncture vs no intervention	
							3.Abstinence rate (short-term) (≤4 weeks)	3.head and eye acupuncture vs nicotine replacement therapy	
							4.Abstinence rate (long-term) (>6 months)	4.head and eye acupuncture vs nicotine replacement therapy	
							5.Nicotine withdrawal symptoms (short-term) (≤ 4 weeks)	5. body needling/ear acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6.Nicotine withdrawal symptoms (short-term) (≤ 4 weeks)	6. body needling vs nicotine replacement therapy	
62	Caroline A Smith 2018	Australia	Mental health	Depression	64	7104	1.Severity of depression at the end of treatment	1.manual acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Quality of life (emotional) during treatment	2.electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Severity of depression at the end of treatment	3.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
63	Wei Li 2019	China	Mental health	Postpartum depression	8	517	1.Depression (HAMD)	1.manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias

							2.Depression (HAMD)	2.manual acupuncture vs psychological therapy	tool
							3.Overall effect (EPDS)	3.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4. Overall effect (EPDS)	4.acupuncture + psychological therapy vs western medicine	
64	Sean Grant 2018	USA	Mental health	Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	7	709	1.PTSD symptoms (post-intervention)	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.PTSD symptoms (follow-up for 1 to 6 months)	2.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Physical health-related quality of life (follow-up for 4 to 12 weeks)	3. body needling vs standard of care	
							4.Mental health-related quality of life (follow-up for 4 to 12 weeks)	4. body needling vs standard of care	
							5.Functional status (post-intervention)	5. body needling vs no intervention	
							6.Functional status (follow-up for 3 months)	6. body needling vs no intervention	
65	Ning Sun 2020	China	Mental health	Chronic pain emotional disorder	12	2450	1.Emotional health （MSQ）-immediate effect	1.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Emotional health (SF36/SF12)-immediate	2.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham	

							effect	acupuncture	
							3.Emotional health（MSQ）-persistent effects (follow up for 3 months)	3.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Emotional health (SF36/SF12)-persistent effects (follow up for 3 months)	4.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
66	Qing Zhang 2018	China	Mental health	Chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS)	16	1346	1.Mental fatigue score of CFS	1.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Physical fatigue score of CFS	2.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
67	Yu-Mei Zhong 2019	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Simple obesity	9	473	1.The reduction of body mass index（BMI）	1.body needling /electro-acupuncture/ear acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
68	Eun-Young Nam 2018	Korean	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Menopausal hot flashes	9	1324	1.Hot flash frequency (⩽12 weeks)	1.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Hot flash frequency (>12 weeks)	2.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Hot flash frequency (4 weeks after treatment started)	3.manual acupuncture vs no intervention	
							3. Hot flash frequency (⩾12 weeks after treatment started)	4. manual acupuncture vs no intervention	

							5.Hot flash severity (VAS)(≤12 weeks)	5.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6.Hot flash severity (VAS)(>12 weeks)	6.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
69	Weihan Li 2017	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Quality of life in menopausal women	6	419	1.Quality of life in menopausal women (MRS)-at end of treatment	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Menopause rating scale (MRS) -at the follow-up period (within 1 to 3 months after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
70	Caroline A Smith 2020	Australia	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Pain during labour	28	3960	1.Pain intensity (VAS)	1.manual acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain intensity (VAS)	2.manual acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture vs standard of care	
							3.Pain intensity (VAS)	3.electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							4.Pain intensity (VAS)	4.acupressure vs sham acupuncture	
							5.Pain intensity (VAS)	5.acupressure vs standard of care	
71	Ying Tang 2017	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's	Postpartum lactating	9	1187	1.The effective rate of lactation within 24 hours after delivery	1.acupressure vs standard of care	Cochrane risk of bias tool

			health				2.The effective rate of lactation within 48 hours after delivery	2.acupressure vs standard of care	
							3. Adequacy ratio of lactation within 24 hours after delivery	3.acupressure vs standard of care	
							4. Adequacy ratio of lactation within 48 hours after delivery	4.acupressure vs standard of care	
							5. Adequacy ratio of lactation within 72 hours after delivery	5.acupressure vs standard of care	
72	Yanjuan Song 2019	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Chronic pelvic pain syndrome	12	1027	1.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI)	1. body needling/electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
73	Caroline A Smith 2016	Australia	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Dysmenorrhea	46	4912	1.Improvement in menstrual symptoms at 3 months after treatment	1. body acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Improvement in menstrual symptoms at 12 months after treatment	2.traditional body acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Quality of life: physical health	3.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.Quality of life: mental health	4.manual acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	

							5.Pain relief	5.body needling/manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
							6.Menstrual symptom score	6. body needling/manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
74	Xiaojuan Liu 2020	China	Pregnancy or intended pregnancy	Luteinized unruptured follicle syndrome	10	715	1.Ovulation rate	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pregnancy rate	2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
75	Liu Yun 2019	China	Pregnancy or intended pregnancy	Infertility	22	2591	1.Pregnancy rate	1.acupuncture and auricular point sticking vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
76	Zhengyun Xie 2019	China	Pregnancy or intended pregnancy	In vitro Fertilization-embryo transfer	27	6116	1.Clinical pregnancy rate	1.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Live birth rate	2.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Miscarriage rate	3.manual acupuncture /electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							4.Clinical pregnancy rate	4.manual acupuncture electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
							5.Live birth rate	5.manual acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs no intervention	
77	Rupsa C.	USA	Pregnancy or	Hyperemesis	1	81	1.Reduction of nausea	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane

	Boelig 2018		intended pregnancy	gravidarum			2.Reduction in vomiting	2.acupuncture vs western medicine	risk of bias tool
78	Chien, T. J. 2017	China	Oncology	Breast cancer-related menopause symptoms	8	504	1. The frequency of hot flush	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Jadad scale
							2. The severity of hot flush (VAS)	2. acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3. Menopausal symptoms (Kupperman Index)	3.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
79	Chiu, H. Y. 2016	China	Oncology	Breast cancer-related menopause symptoms	7	342	1.The hot-flash frequency (short-term effects)	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.The hot-flash severity (short-term effects)	2. acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.The menopause-related Symptoms (short-term effects)	3. electro -acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							4.The hot-flash frequency (intermediate-term effects)	4.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							5. The hot-flash severity (intermediate-term effects)	5. acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							6. The menopause-related symptoms (intermediate-term effects)	6. acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
80	Chien, T. J 2015	China	Oncology	Aromatase inhibitor-induced arthralgia in breast	5	207	1. Joint pain (BPI-SF)	1.acupuncture/electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Jadad scale
							2.Joint stiffness	2.acupuncture/electro-acupunctur	

				cancer			(WOMAC)	e vs sham acupuncture	
81	WU Junying 2018	China	Neurology	Post-stroke shoulder-hand syndrome	14	1043	1.The shoulder-hand syndrome assessment score (SHSS)	1. acupuncture vs rehabilitation	Jadad scale
							2.The upper limb motor function (FMA)	2. acupuncture vs rehabilitation	
							3.Pain（VAS）	3. acupuncture vs rehabilitation	
82	LIU Kai	China	Neurology	Post-stroke shoulder-hand syndrome	7	401	2.The upper limb motor function (FMA)	1.acupuncture vs rehabilitation	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Activities of daily living	2. acupuncture vs rehabilitation	
83	QUE Fangxu	China	Neurology	Post-stroke depression	18	1813	1. Depression (HAMD-17)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2. Depression (HAMD-24)	2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
84	Qian Wang 2016	China	Neurology	Post-stroke depression	27	1729	1. Depression (HAMD)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
85	Jie Zhan 2016	China	Neurology	Post-stroke depression	14	1180	1. Depression (HAMD)	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
86	Chengyong Liu 2020	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	13	1061	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
87	Longcong Dong 2019	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	11	792	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool

88	Waits, A 2018	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	13	968	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.acupressure vs sham acupressure	Cochrane risk of bias tool
89	Lan Y 2015	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	15	1429	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.auricular acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Sleep quality (PSQI)	2.auricular acupuncture vs western medicine	
90	Wenfang Song 2019	China	Neurology	Insomnia disorder	7	474	1.Sleep quality (PSQI)	1.acupuncture vs standard of care	Cochrane risk of bias tool
91	Cui Qiuyue 2018	China	Neurology	Migraine	15	1288	1.Pain (immediate-term)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (short-term)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Pain (long-term)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
92	Linde K 2016	Germany	Neurology	Migraine	22	4985	1.Headache frequency (after treatment)	1.acupuncture vs no acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Headache frequency (after treatment)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Headache frequency (after treatment)	3.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							4.Headache frequency (follow-up for 3 weeks to 12 months)	4.acupuncture vs no intervention	
							5.Headache frequency	5.acupuncture vs sham	

							(follow-up for 3 weeks to 12 months)	acupuncture	
							6.Headache frequency (follow-up for 3 weeks to 12 months)	6.acupuncture vs western medicine	
93	Pu Shengxiong 2016	China	Neurology	Migraine acute Attack	5	618	1.Pain (VAS)- 2 hours after treatment	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS)- 4 hours after treatment	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
94	Jinna Yu 2016	China	Neurology	Tourette syndrome	7	564	1.Severity of tics (YGTSS)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
95	Lien-Chen Wu 2018	China	Connective tissue diseases	Chronic back pain	12	700	1.Pain (VAS/BPS)	1.TENS vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS/BPS)	2.TENS vs sham acupuncture	
96	Feifan Liang 2016	China	Connective tissue diseases	Non-specific low back pain	10	751	1.Function improvement (ODI)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Pain (VAS)	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
							3.Function improvement (RMDQ)	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
97	Zhiqing Liu 2017	China	Ear, nose, and throat disorders	Allergic rhinitis	10	552	1.Symptom scores	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
98	Zhang Jin	China	Ear, nose, and	Allergic rhinitis	11	1805	1. Reducing of nasal	1. manual acupuncture vs sham	Jadad score

	2017		throat disorders				symptoms (TNSS)	acupuncture	
							2. Reducing of nasal symptoms (TNSS)	2. manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
99	Lei Yang 2015	China	Eye disorders	Dry eye syndrome	7	383	1.Tear break-up time	1. manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Severity of dry eyes (Schirmer I test)	2. manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
100	Jiang Hui-ru 2017	China	Eye disorders	Dry eye syndrome	8	847	1.Tear break-up time	1. manual acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Severity of dry eyes (Schirmer I test)	2. manual acupuncture vs western medicine	
101	Zhang Jieying 2016	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Functional constipation	10	1162	1.Weekly frequency of defecation	1.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	Jadad score
							2.Symptoms improvement (CCS)	2.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
102	Peng Jieru 2018	China	Gastrointestinal disorders	Functional dyspepsia	7	1044	1.Postprandial fullness	1.manul acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Early satiety	2.manul acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Epigastric pain	3.manul acupuncture vs western medicine	
							4.Epigastric burning	4.manul acupuncture vs western medicine	
103	Shang-Chi h Chang 2016	China	Genitourinary disorders	Chronic prostatitis	7	502	1.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI)	1.manul acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Jadad score

							2.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI)	2.electro-acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3. Symptoms improvement (IPSS)	3.manul acupuncture/ electro-acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
104	Qin.Z 2016	China	Genitourinary disorders	Chronic prostatitis	7	471	1.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI total score)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							2.Improvement of pain in chronic prostatitis (NIH-CPSI pain domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Improvement of voiding in chronic prostatitis (NIH-CPSI voiding domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							4.Quality of life (NIH-CPSI quality of life domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							5.Symptoms improvement (IPSS)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
105	Liu.B. P. 2016	China	Genitourinary disorders	Chronic prostatitis	10	754	1.Symptoms improvement (NIH-CPSI total score)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							2.Response rate	1.acupuncture vs sham	

								acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							3.Improvement of pain in chronic prostatitis (NIH-CPSI pain domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							4.Improvement of voiding in chronic prostatitis (NIH-CPSI voiding domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							5.Quality of life (NIH-CPSI quality of life domain subscore)	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								2.acupuncture vs western medicine	
106	Armour. M 2019	Australia	Mental health	Depression	29	2268	1.The severity of depression	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
107	ZHANG Rong-qiang 2017	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Simple obesity	6	236	1.Weight	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Jadad score
							2.BMI	3.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
108	CHEN Xia 2016	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Simple obesity	21	1929	1.Weight	1.acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
								2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								3.acupuncture vs western medicine	
							2.BMI	1.acupuncture vs no intervention	

								2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
								3.acupuncture vs western medicine	
109	Xue Dongqun 2015	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Simple obesity	17	1246	1.Weight	1. auricular pressure vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.BMI	2. auricular pressure vs sham acupuncture	
110	Jianrong Chen 2018	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Obesity	33	2503	1.Weight	1.acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
								2.acupuncture vs no intervention	
111	Junpeng Yao 2019	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Obesity	12	1151	1.BMI	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Waist circumference	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
112	Zhang Lin 2015	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Obesity	23	1836	1.BMI	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Weight	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	
113	Kepei Zhang 2018	China	Nutrition and metabolic disorders	Obesity	21	1389	1.BMI	1.acupuncture vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
114	Wu Qian 2016	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Quality of life in menopausal women	10	801	1.Hot flashes frequency	1.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	Cochrane risk of bias tool
							2.Hot flashes severity	2.acupuncture vs sham acupuncture	

115	Raana Haj Najafi 2020	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Pain during labour	10	1271	1.Labour pain	1.acupressure vs sham acupuncture 2.acupressure vs no intervention	Cochrane risk of bias tool
116	Najafi,F. 2018	Iran	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Pain during labour	16	1652	1.The severity of pain after the intervention	1.acupressure vs sham acupuncture	Quality criteria were not included in the analysis
117	Lixia,Lin 2020	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Dysmenorrhea	23	1739	1. Pain improvement (VAS) 2. Symptoms improvement (Dysmenorrhea symptom score)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine 2.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
118	Ge,Li 2017	China	Obstetrics, gynecology and women's health	Dysmenorrhea	56	4600	1.Pain improvement (VAS)	1.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
119	Ranran Gao 2019	China	Pregnancy or intended pregnancy	Infertility	9	1441	1.Pregnancy 2.Ovulation 3.Pregnancy loss	1.acupuncture vs western medicine 2.acupuncture vs western medicine 3.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool
120	Boelig,R.C 2016	USA	Pregnancy or intended pregnancy	Hyperemesis gravidarum	25	2052	1.Reduction or cessation in nausea 2.Reduction or cessation in vomiting	1.acupuncture vs western medicine 2.acupuncture vs western medicine	Cochrane risk of bias tool

Note: **VAS,** Visual Analog Scale. **TENS,** Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation. **BFI,** Brief Fatigue Inventory. **BPI,** Brief Pain Inventory.**FMA,** Fugl-Meyer Assessment **MBI,** Modified Barthel Index. **ROM,** Range of Motion. **FMA,** Fugl-Myer Assessment. **ASS,** Ashworth Scale for Spasticity. **BI,** Barthel Index. **HAMD,** Hamilton Depression Scale. **MMSE,** Mini-mental State Examination. **ADL**, Activities of Daily Living. **MoCA**, Montreal Cognitive Assessment. **NDS**, Neurological Deficit Scale. **HDS**, Hastgawa Dementia Scale. **PSQI,** Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index. **UPDRS,** Unified PD Rating Scale. **CARS,** Childhood Autism Rating Scale. **MSQ,** Migraine-Specific Quality of Life Questionnaire. **YGTSS,** Yale Global Tic Severity Scale. **ISOA**, Index of Severity for Osteoarthritis. **WOMAC,** Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Arthritis Index. **DHI,** Dizziness Handicap Inventory. **TNSS**, Total Nasal Symptom Score. **ICU,** Intensive Care Unit. **APACHE,** Acute Physiology, Age, Chronic Health Evaluation. **CSS,** Constipation symptoms scores. **NDI-QOLS,** Nipping Index of Quality of Life. **NIH-CPSI,** National Institute of Health Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index. **IPSS,** International Prostate Symptom Score. **BDI,** Beck Depression Inventory. **EPDS,** Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale. **SF36/SF12,** the MOS 36-item short-form health survey/the MOS 12-item short-form health survey. **BMI,** Body Mass Index. **MRS,** Menopause Rating Scale. **BPI-SF,** Brief Pain Inventorye-Short Form. **BPS,** Back Performance Scale. **ODI**, Oswestry Disability Index. **RMDQ,** Roland-Morris Disability Questionnaire. **CCS**, Cleveland constipation Score.