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Neurovascular Headache

Céphalées neurovasculaires: évaluation de l'acupuncture

1. Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis

1.1. Zhao 2011 ☆

Zhao L, Guo Y, Wang W, Yan Lj. Systematic review on randomized controlled clinical trials of acupuncture therapy for neurovascular headache. Chinese Journal of Integrated Medicine. 2011;17(8):580-6. [158541]

Objective	To evaluate the effectiveness of acupuncture as a treatment for neurovascular headache and to analyze the current situation related to acupuncture treatment.
Methods	PubMed database (1966-2010), EMBASE database (1986-2010), Cochrane Library (Issue 1, 2010), Chinese Biomedical Literature Database (1979-2010), China HowNet Knowledge Database (1979-2010), VIP Journals Database (1989-2010), and Wanfang database (1998-2010) were retrieved. Randomized or quasi-randomized controlled studies were included. The priority was given to high-quality randomized, controlled trials. Statistical outcome indicators were measured using RevMan 5.0.20 software.
Results	A total of **16 articles and 1 535 cases** were included. Meta-analysis showed a significant difference between the acupuncture therapy and Western medicine therapy [combined RR (random efficacy model)=1.46, 95% CI (1.21, 1.75), Z=3.96, P<0.0001], indicating an obvious superior effect of the acupuncture therapy; significant difference also existed between the comprehensive acupuncture therapy and acupuncture therapy alone [combined RR (fixed efficacy model)=3.35, 95% CI (1.92, 5.82), Z=4.28, P<0.0001], indicating that acupuncture combined with other therapies, such as points injection, scalp acupuncture, auricular acupuncture, etc., were superior to the conventional body acupuncture therapy alone.
Conclusions	The inclusion of limited clinical studies had verified the efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of neurovascular headache. **Although acupuncture or its combined therapies provides certain advantages, most clinical studies are of small sample sizes**. Large sample size, randomized, controlled trials are needed in the future for more definitive results.

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