

# Appendix A: Search strategies

## *Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials*

Search Strategy:

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- 1 exp Dysmenorrhea/ (329)
- 2 pain\$ period\$.tw. (69)
- 3 menstrua\$ cramp\$.tw. (17)
- 4 pelvi\$ pain\$.tw. (449)
- 5 (period\$ adj3 cramp\$).tw. (7)
- 6 (menstrua\$ adj3 pain\$).tw. (176)
- 7 Dysmenorr\$.tw. (724)
- 8 or/1-7 (1257)
- 9 exp Acupuncture Therapy/ or exp Acupuncture, Ear/ or exp Acupuncture Points/ or exp Acupuncture Analgesia/ or exp Acupuncture/ (2489)
- 10 exp Acupressure/ (174)
- 11 exp Electroacupuncture/ (411)
- 12 exp Meridians/ (943)
- 13 exp Moxibustion/ (177)
- 14 Acupuncture.tw. (5332)
- 15 acupressure\$.tw. (327)
- 16 (electroacupuncture or electro acupuncture or electro-acupuncture).tw. (825)
- 17 meridian\$.tw. (403)
- 18 mox\$.tw. (1317)
- 19 needling.tw. (673)
- 20 (acu-point\$ or acu point\$).tw. (7)

- 21 acupoint\$.tw. (1133)
- 22 shu.tw. (127)
- 23 (shiatsu or tui na).tw. (5)
- 24 or/9-23 (8207)
- 25 8 and 24 (97)
- 26 limit 25 to yr="2010 -Current" (38)

***CINAHL search strategy***

#	Query	Results
S40	S25 AND S39	122
S39	S26 OR S27 or S28 or S29 OR S30 OR S31 OR S32 OR S33 OR S34 OR S35 OR S36 OR S37 OR S38	883,698
S38	TX allocat* random*	3,869
S37	(MH "Quantitative Studies")	11,815
S36	(MH "Placebos")	8,705
S35	TX placebo*	31,362
S34	TX random* allocat*	3,869
S33	(MH "Random Assignment")	37,008
S32	TX randomi* control* trial*	71,278
S31	TX ( (singl* n1 blind*) or (singl* n1 mask*) ) or TX ( (doubl* n1 blind*) or (doubl* n1 mask*) ) or TX ( (tripl* n1 blind*) or (tripl* n1 mask*) ) or TX ( (trebl* n1 blind*) or (trebl* n1 mask*) )	710,419
S30	TX ( (trebl* n1 blind*) or (trebl* n1 mask*) )	104
S29	TX ( (trebl* n1 blind*) or (trebl* n1 mask*) )	0
S28	TX clinic* n1 trial*	162,337
S27	PT Clinical trial	75,742
S26	(MH "Clinical Trials+")	173,495
S25	S8 AND S24	227
S24	S9 OR S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15 OR S16 OR S17 OR S18 OR S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23	34,744
S23	TX (shiatsu or tui na)	225
S22	TX shu*	20,087
S21	TX acupoint*	535
S20	TX (acu-point* or acu point*)	10

S19	TX needling	499
S18	TX mox*	1,497
S17	TX meridian*	1,336
S16	TX (electroacupuncture or electro acupuncture or electro-acupuncture)	1,135
S15	TX acupressure	897
S14	TX Acupuncture	12,372
S13	(MM "Moxibustion")	164
S12	(MM "Meridians+")	647
S11	(MM "Electroacupuncture")	519
S10	(MM "Acupressure+")	532
S9	(MM "Acupuncture+") OR (MM "Acupuncture, Ear") OR (MM "Acupuncture Points") OR (MM "Acupuncture Anesthesia") OR (MM "Acupuncture Analgesia")	6,739
S8	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7	4,376
S7	TX (menstrua* N3 pain*)	256
S6	TX (period* N3 cramp*)	6
S5	TX (pelvi* pain*)	2,139
S4	TX (menstrua* N3 cramp*)	60
S3	TX (pain* period*)	1,232
S2	TX Dysmenorr*	1,081
S1	(MM "Dysmenorrhea")	476

### ***Embase***

Search Strategy:

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- 1 exp dysmenorrhea/ (7756)
- 2 pain\$ period\$.tw. (189)
- 3 Dysmenorr\$.tw. (5075)
- 4 menstrua\$ cramp\$.tw. (122)
- 5 pelvi\$ pain\$.tw. (8468)
- 6 (period\$ adj3 cramp\$).tw. (29)
- 7 (menstrua\$ adj3 pain\$).tw. (1084)

- 8 or/1-7 (16731)
- 9 exp acupuncture analgesia/ or exp acupuncture/ or exp acupuncture needle/  
(30837)
- 10 exp electroacupuncture/ (3972)
- 11 exp moxibustion/ (1525)
- 12 Acupuncture.tw. (19836)
- 13 acupressure\$.tw. (748)
- 14 (electroacupuncture or electro acupuncture or electro-acupuncture).tw.  
(3760)
- 15 meridian\$.tw. (4363)
- 16 mox\$.tw. (9902)
- 17 needling.tw. (1963)
- 18 (acu-point\$ or acu point\$).tw. (31)
- 19 acupoint\$.tw. (3471)
- 20 shu.tw. (1258)
- 21 (shiatsu or tui na).tw. (111)
- 22 or/9-21 (45318)
- 23 8 and 22 (478)
- 24 Clinical Trial/ (829834)
- 25 Randomized Controlled Trial/ (339246)
- 26 exp randomization/ (61637)
- 27 Single Blind Procedure/ (18063)
- 28 Double Blind Procedure/ (112516)
- 29 Crossover Procedure/ (38388)
- 30 Placebo/ (236843)

- 31 Randomized controlled trial\$.tw. (96261)
- 32 Rct.tw. (13470)
- 33 random allocation.tw. (1289)
- 34 randomly allocated.tw. (19842)
- 35 allocated randomly.tw. (1898)
- 36 (allocated adj2 random).tw. (707)
- 37 Single blind\$.tw. (13987)
- 38 Double blind\$.tw. (138429)
- 39 ((treble or triple) adj blind\$.tw. (353)
- 40 placebo\$.tw. (194048)
- 41 prospective study/ (245966)
- 42 or/24-41 (1341843)
- 43 case study/ (25274)
- 44 case report.tw. (254843)
- 45 abstract report/ or letter/ (884458)
- 46 or/43-45 (1159072)
- 47 42 not 46 (1304562)
- 48 23 and 47 (227)
- 49 (2010\$ or 2011\$ or 2012\$ or 2013\$ or 2014\$).em. (5169650)
- 50 (2010\$ or 2011\$ or 2012\$ or 2013\$ or 2014\$).dp. (783648)
- 51 49 or 50 (5199430)
- 52 48 and 51 (112)

***Menstrual disorders and subfertility database***

Keywords CONTAINS "dysmenorrhea" or "Dysmenorrhea-Symptoms" or "dysmenorrhoea" or "pain-dysmenorrhea" or "pain-pelvic" or "pelvic pain" or "menstrual cramps" or "menstrual pain" or "primary dysmenorrhea" or "\*Dysmenorrhea" or "menstrual distress" or "\*menstrual pain" or "primary

dysmenorrheal" or Title CONTAINS "dysmenorrhea" or "Dysmenorrhea-Symptoms" or "dysmenorrhoea" or "pain-dysmenorrhea" or "pain-pelvic" or "pelvic pain" or "menstrual cramps" or "menstrual pain" or "primary dysmenorrhea" or "\*Dysmenorrhea" or "menstrual distress" or "\*menstrual pain" AND

Keywords CONTAINS "acupoint" or "acupressure" or "acupressure-acupuncture therapy" or "acupuncture" or "electro-acupuncture" or "electro-magnetic" or "electroacupuncture" or "electrical stimulation" or "moxibustion" or "\*acupuncture" or "auricular acupressure" or "auricular pressure" or "needle insertion" or Title CONTAINS "acupoint" or "acupressure" or "acupressure-acupuncture therapy" or "acupuncture" or "electro-acupuncture" or "electro-magnetic" or "electroacupuncture" or "electrical stimulation" or "moxibustion" or "\*acupuncture" or "auricular acupressure" or "auricular pressure" or "needle insertion"

### ***Ovid MEDLINE(R)***

Search Strategy:

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- 1 exp Dysmenorrhea/ (3064)
  - 2 pain\$ period\$.tw. (135)
  - 3 menstrua\$ cramp\$.tw. (101)
  - 4 pelvi\$ pain\$.tw. (5812)
  - 5 (period\$ adj3 cramp\$).tw. (22)
  - 6 (menstrua\$ adj3 pain\$).tw. (865)
  - 7 Dysmenorr\$.tw. (4076)
  - 8 or/1-7 (10786)
  - 9 exp Acupuncture Therapy/ or exp Acupuncture, Ear/ or exp Acupuncture Points/ or exp Acupuncture Analgesia/ or exp Acupuncture/ (17070)
  - 10 exp Acupressure/ (454)
  - 11 exp Electroacupuncture/ (2456)
  - 12 exp Meridians/ (4121)
  - 13 exp Moxibustion/ (1082)
  - 14 Acupuncture.tw. (14440)

- 15 acupressure\$.tw. (576)
- 16 (electroacupuncture or electro acupuncture or electro-acupuncture).tw. (3061)
- 17 meridian\$.tw. (3921)
- 18 mox\$.tw. (7407)
- 19 needling.tw. (1571)
- 20 (acu-point\$ or acu point\$).tw. (22)
- 21 acupoint\$.tw. (2808)
- 22 shu.tw. (526)
- 23 (shiatsu or tui na).tw. (77)
- 24 or/9-23 (30594)
- 25 8 and 24 (223)
- 26 randomized controlled trial.pt. (370764)
- 27 controlled clinical trial.pt. (88164)
- 28 randomized.ab. (290727)
- 29 randomised.ab. (58340)
- 30 placebo.tw. (157152)
- 31 clinical trials as topic.sh. (169371)
- 32 randomly.ab. (210819)
- 33 trial.ti. (124986)
- 34 (crossover or cross-over or cross over).tw. (60283)
- 35 or/26-34 (936480)
- 36 exp animals/ not humans.sh. (3923552)
- 37 35 not 36 (863648)
- 38 25 and 37 (124)

- 39 (2010\$ or 2011\$ or 2012\$ or 2013\$ or 2014\$.ed. (4247951)
- 40 (2010\$ or 2011\$ or 2012\$ or 2013\$ or 2014\$.dp. (3920946)
- 41 39 or 40 (4758325)
- 42 38 and 41 (72)

***PsycINFO***

Search Strategy:

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- 1 exp Dysmenorrhea/ (175)
- 2 pain\$ period\$.tw. (28)
- 3 Dysmenorr\$.tw. (320)
- 4 menstrua\$ cramp\$.tw. (16)
- 5 pelvi\$ pain\$.tw. (384)
- 6 (period\$ adj3 cramp\$).tw. (2)
- 7 (menstrua\$ adj3 pain\$).tw. (169)
- 8 or/1-7 (854)
- 9 exp Acupuncture/ (1098)
- 10 Acupuncture.tw. (1471)
- 11 acupressure\$.tw. (107)
- 12 (electroacupuncture or electro acupuncture or electro-acupuncture).tw. (251)
- 13 meridian\$.tw. (689)
- 14 mox\$.tw. (139)
- 15 needling.tw. (98)
- 16 (acu-point\$ or acu point\$).tw. (1)



- 17 acupoint\$.tw. (178)
- 18 shu.tw. (138)
- 19 (shiatsu or tui na).tw. (14)
- 20 or/9-19 (2599)
- 21 8 and 20 (11)
- 22 limit 21 to yr="2010 -Current" (4)