

Supplementary Table 1: Definitions of Effectiveness criteria for included studies

Study ID	Effectiveness criteria
Li 2008	<p><i>Cured:</i> symptom score reduced to 0, symptoms gone, no relapse 3 months after treatment stopped.</p> <p><i>Obviously effective:</i> symptom score reduced by >3/4 of the baseline, pain obviously reduced and other symptoms reduced or gone, able to work without painkiller.</p> <p><i>Effective:</i> symptom score reduced by >1/2 to <3/4 of the baseline, pain reduced and other symptoms reduced, able to work with pain killer.</p> <p><i>Ineffective:</i> pain and symptoms not changed</p>
Zhi 2007	<p><i>Recently cured:</i> After acupuncture treatment abdominal pain and other symptoms have disappeared, followup of three menstrual cycles later no relapse, decreased menstrual score => 95%</p> <p><i>Marked effect:</i> Abdominal pain obviously decreased, other symptoms have lessened or disappeared, can resume normal work without the need of pain relieving medications, decreased menstrual score => 70%</p> <p><i>Effective:</i> Abdominal pain lessen, other symptoms lessen or disappeared, can resume normal work without the need of pain relieving medications, decreased menstrual score => 30% but < 70%.</p> <p><i>No Effect:</i> No change in severity of abdominal pain or other symptoms, decreased menstrual score < 30%.</p>