

Supplementary table 3. Acupuncture or adjunctive acupuncture Vs. other interventions for chronic knee pain

Comparison or Outcome	Subgroup	Studies	Participants	Statistical Method	Effect Estimate
1 Acupuncture Vs. No acupuncture					
1.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to 4 post-randomization			MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	4 weeks	1	12	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.78 [-1.71, 0.15]
	8 weeks	1	219	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-2.05 [-2.55, -1.55]
	1 year	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.10 [0.89, 3.31]
1.2 VAS	4 weeks	1	12	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-3.70 [-18.82, 11.42]
	1 year	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-6.00 [-15.45, 3.45]
1.3 SF-36 PCS	8 weeks	1	219	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	4.40 [2.28, 6.52]
	12 weeks	2	596	MD (IV, Random, 95% CI)	5.40 [4.01, 6.79]
	1 year	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.80 [-1.12, 6.72]
1.4 SF-36 MCS	8 weeks	1	219	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.90 [0.51, 5.29]
	12 weeks	2	596	MD (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-1.10 [-6.97, 4.76]
	1 year	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-3.30 [-7.08, 0.48]
2 Acupuncture Vs. Standard care					
2.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to 1 post-randomization			MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	4 weeks	1	73	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-3.21 [-4.81, -1.61]
	8 weeks	1	73	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-4.12 [-5.77, -2.47]
	12 weeks	1	73	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-3.95 [-5.43, -2.47]
3 Acupuncture plus usual care Vs. Usual care					
3.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to 1			MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

	post-randomization				
	12 weeks	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-2.97 [-5.70, -0.24]
	1 year	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.60 [-2.89, 1.69]
3.2 SF-36 PCS	Time point closest to	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	post-randomization				
	12 weeks	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	12.71 [-1.60, 27.02]
	1 year	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	5.30 [-4.40, 15.00]
3.3 SF-36 MCS	Time point closest to	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	post-randomization				
	12 weeks	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	5.00 [-8.37, 18.37]
	1 year	1	30	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	8.10 [-4.85, 21.05]
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4 Acupuncture Vs.Exercise					
4.1 VAS	Time point closest to	2		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	post-randomization				
	4 weeks	1	40	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	8.03 [2.46, 13.60]
	8 weeks	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-5.60 [-14.14, 2.94]
	12 weeks	1	121	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-6.60 [-14.38, 1.18]
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5 Auricular electroacupuncture vs. Autogenic training					
5.1 VAS	Time point closest to	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	post-randomization				
	4 weeks	1	37	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-11.30 [-21.70, -0.90]
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6 Acupuncture Vs. Education (change from baseline)					
6.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	post-randomization				
	4 weeks	1	297	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-1.38 [-2.07, -0.69]
	8 weeks	1	294	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-1.90 [-2.72, -1.08]

	12 weeks	1	271	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-2.09 [-3.01, -1.17]
	26 weeks	1	250	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-2.10 [-3.01, -1.19]
6.2 SF-36 PCS	8 weeks	1	294	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	4.90 [1.16, 8.64]
	26 weeks	1	250	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	6.70 [2.40, 11.00]
7 EA Vs. Drug (change from baseline)					
7.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to post-randomization	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	4 weeks	1	95	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-0.75 [-2.30, 0.80]
7.2 VAS	4 weeks	1	95	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-15.25 [-25.70, -4.80]
8 Electroacupuncture Vs. Drug					
8.1 VAS	Time point closest to post-randomization	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	4 weeks	1	60	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-3.70 [-6.08, -1.32]
9 Acupuncture plus drug Vs. Drug					
9.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to post-randomization	1		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only
	4 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-4.01 [-5.76, -2.26]
	8 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-7.08 [-8.53, -5.63]
	12 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-7.59 [-9.22, -5.96]
9.2 VAS	4 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-16.30 [-21.65, -10.95]
	8 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-24.30 [-28.19, -20.41]
	12 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-25.90 [-30.39, -21.41]
9.3 SF-36 PCS	8 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	10.50 [7.95, 13.05]
9.4 SF-36 MCS	8 weeks	1	80	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.50 [-1.88, 4.88]
10 Acupuncture Vs. Drug					
10.1 WOMAC pain subscale	Time point closest to	2		MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	Subtotals only

	post-randomization				
	4 weeks	2	319	MD (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-3.13 [-9.50, 3.25]
	8 weeks	1	120	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	-1.87 [-2.19, -1.56]
10.2 VAS	4 weeks	2	219	MD (IV, Random, 95% CI)	-13.32 [-58.49, 31.85]
10.3 SF-36 PCS	4 weeks	1	120	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	1.83 [-0.86, 4.52]
	8 weeks	1	120	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	4.99 [1.83, 8.15]
10.4 SF-36 MCS	4 weeks	1	120	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	2.88 [-0.90, 6.66]
	8 weeks	1	120	MD (IV, Fixed, 95% CI)	6.22 [3.33, 9.11]

Notes: VAS=Visual Analogue Scale; WOMAC= Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index; NRS= 11-point numeric rating scale; SF-36= 36-Item Short Form Health Survey; PCS=Physical Component Summary; MCS= Mental Component summary; MD= Mean Difference.