

**Movement Disorders**

Volume 23 Issue 11, Pages 1505 - 1515

Published Online: 10 Jul 2008

Copyright © 2010 Movement Disorders Society

- [Get Sample Copy](#)
- [Recommend to Your Librarian](#)
- [Save journal to My Profile](#)
- [Set E-Mail Alert](#)
- [Email this page](#)
- [Print this page](#)
- [RSS web feed \(What is RSS?\)](#)

Published on behalf of

The Movement
Disorder Society[Go to Society Site](#)
[Save Article to My Profile](#) [Download Citation](#) [Request Permissions](#)
[< Previous Abstract](#) | [Next Abstract >](#)
[Abstract](#) | [References](#) | Full Text: [HTML](#), [PDF](#) (Size: 459K) | [Related Articles](#) | [Citation Tracking](#)
Review**Effectiveness of acupuncture for Parkinson's disease: A systematic review**Myeong Soo Lee, PhD^{1 2 *}, Byung-Cheul Shin, OMD, PhD³, Jae Cheol Kong, OMD, MSc³, Edzard Ernst, MD, PhD, FRCP, FRCPEd¹¹Complementary Medicine, Peninsula Medical School, Universities of Exeter & Plymouth, Exeter, United Kingdom²Department of Medical Research, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine, Daejeon, South Korea³Department of Oriental Rehabilitation Medicine, College of Oriental Medicine, Wonkwang University, Iksan, South Koreaemail: Myeong Soo Lee (myeong.lee@pms.ac.uk drmslee@gmail.com)

* Correspondence to Myeong Soo Lee, Department of Medical Research, Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine, 461-24, Jeonmin-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 305-811, South Korea

Funded by:

▪ KOSEF; Grant Number: R11-2005-014

KEYWORDS

acupuncture • Parkinson's disease • systematic review

ABSTRACT

The objective of this review is to assess the clinical evidence for or against acupuncture as a treatment for Parkinson's disease (PD). We searched the literature using 17 databases from their inception to September 2007 (searched again 3rd January 2008), without language restrictions. We included all randomized clinical trials (RCTs) regardless of their design. Methodological quality was assessed using the Jadad score. Eleven RCTs met all inclusion criteria. Three RCTs assessed the effectiveness of acupuncture on Unified Parkinson's Disease Rating Scale (UPDRS) compared with placebo acupuncture. A meta-analysis of these studies showed no significant effect ($n = 96$, WMD, 5.7; 95% CI -2.8 to 14.2, $P = 0.19$, heterogeneity: $\tau^2 = 0$, $\chi^2 = 0.97$, $P = 0.62$, $I^2 = 0\%$). Another six RCTs compared acupuncture plus conventional drugs on improvement of symptoms of PD with drugs only. A meta-analysis of two of these studies suggested a positive effect of scalp acupuncture ($n = 106$, RR, 1.46, 95% CI = 1.15 to 1.87, $P = 0.002$; heterogeneity: τ^2

= 0.00, $\chi^2 = 1.14$, $P = 0.29$, $I^2 = 12\%$). Two further RCTs tested acupuncture versus no treatment. The meta-analysis of these studies also suggested beneficial effects of acupuncture. The results of the latter two types of RCTs fail to adequately control for nonspecific effects. In conclusion, the evidence for the effectiveness of acupuncture for treating PD is not convincing. The number and quality of trials as well as their total sample size are too low to draw any firm conclusion. Further rigorous trials are warranted. © 2008 Movement Disorder Society

Received: 20 November 2007; Revised: 29 January 2008; Accepted: 29 January 2008

DIGITAL OBJECT IDENTIFIER (DOI)

10.1002/mds.21993 [About DOI](#)

Related Articles

- Find other [articles](#) like this in Wiley InterScience
- Find articles in Wiley InterScience written by any of the [authors](#)

Wiley InterScience is a member of CrossRef.



[Request Reprint](#)

Copyright © 1999-2010 [John Wiley & Sons, Inc.](#) All Rights Reserved.