

Supplementary Material 1

Search strategy

Lateral Epicondylitis

1. Tennis Elbow [MeSH]
2. Elbow, Tennis
3. Tennis Elbows
4. Lateral Epicondylitis
5. Epicondylitis, Lateral
6. Epicondylitis, Lateral Humeral
7. Humeral Epicondylitis, Lateral
8. Lateral Humeral Epicondylitis
9. OR / 1-8

Acupuncture

10. acupuncture [MeSH]
11. acupuncture therapy [MeSH]
12. Acupuncture Treatment
13. Acupuncture Treatments
14. Treatment, Acupuncture
15. Therapy, Acupuncture
16. eletro-acupuncture
17. eletroacupuncture
18. manual acupuncture
19. needle
20. needling
21. warm needle
22. OR / 10-21

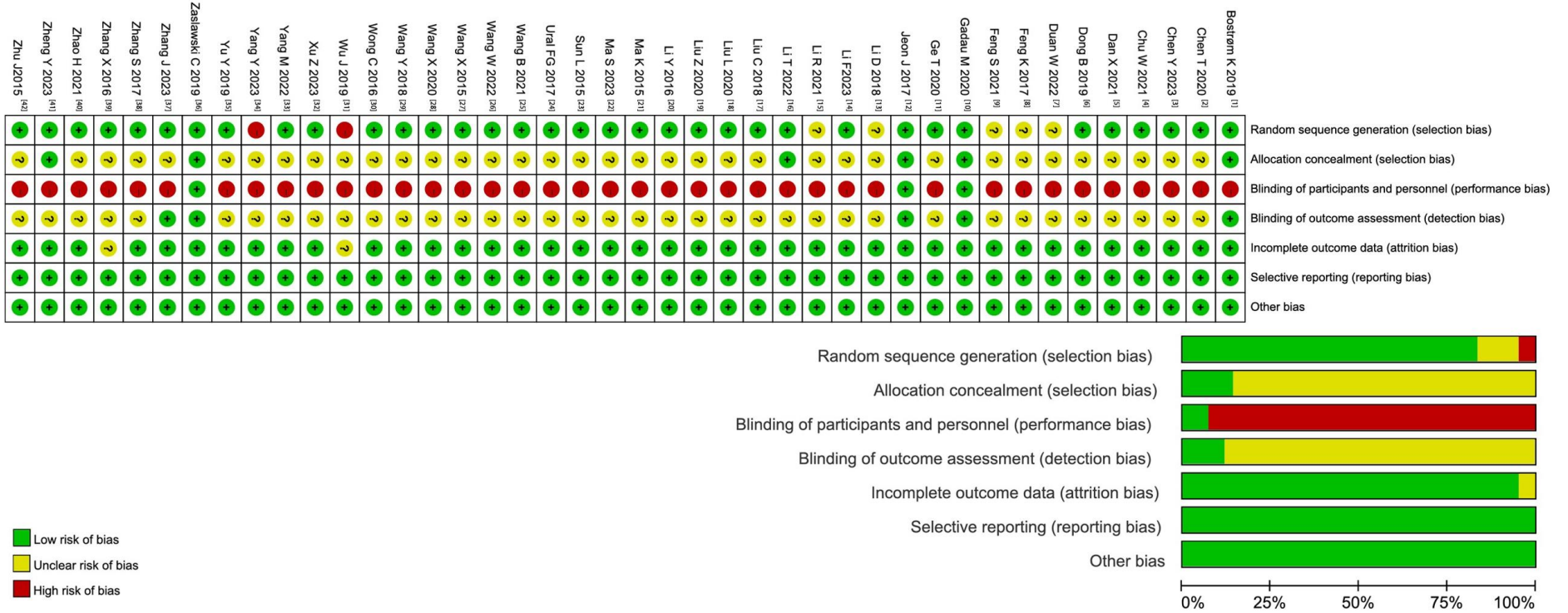
Combined search:

#9 AND #22

Legend: MeSH indicates Medical Subject Heading in Pubmed.

The search was limited to:

2015/1/1-2025/3/31[pdat]



Supplementary Material 2 Graphs of risk of bias. The upper graph illustrates the assessment for each risk of bias item across the included studies. The lower graph depicts the assessment of each domain across all included studies.

Reference of included studies

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- [2] Chen T, Gao Y. Clinical Observation of Meridian Acupoint Massage Combined with Surround Needling for External Humeral Epicondylitis. *Hubei Journal of TCM.* 2022;44(09):37-39.
- [3] Chen Y, Lu Q, Xiong Y. Acupuncture and Massage Combined with Western Medicine in the Conservative Treatment of Humeral Supracondylitis. *Chinese Medicine Modern Distance Education of China.* 2023;21(19):38-41.
- [4] Chu W, Wang H. Clinical Observation of Warm Needling Combined with Chinese Herbal Fumigation for External Humeral Epicondylitis. *Hubei Journal of TCM.* 2021;43(08):38-40.
- [5] Dan X, Zhang F, Yu L. Clinical Efficacy of Abdominal Acupuncture Combined with Local Warm Needling for External Humeral Epicondylitis. *Inner Mongolia Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine.* 2021;40(08):145-146.
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- [9] Feng S, Lu W. Clinical Observation on the Treatment of Elbow Disorder of Hand Yangming Meridian with Dense-Sparse Wave Electroacupuncture Based on Meridian Differentiation. *Medical Frontiers.* 2021;11(36):173-175.
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people with lateral epicondylalgia. *Chin Med*. 2017;12(1):22.

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[16] Li T. Clinical Observation of Acupuncture Combined with Laser Irradiation for Tennis Elbow. *China's Naturopathy*. 2022;30(01):40-42.

[17] Liu C, Liu H, Wang Q. Observation on the Efficacy of Acupuncture Combined with Shock Wave Therapy for External Humeral Epicondylitis. *Journal of Practical Traditional Chinese Medicine*. 2018;34(08):982-983.

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[21] Ma K, Zhang B, Wang Y, et al. Observation on the efficacy of acupuncture combined with massage for sports tennis elbow. *Shaanxi Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine*. 2015;36(11):1522-1523.

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Supplementary Material 3 The 59 acupoint association rules for LE treatment

LHS \geq RHS	Support (%)	Confidence (%)	lift
{LI10} \geq {LI11}	57.14	92.31	1.34
{LI11} \geq {LI10}	57.14	82.76	1.34
{Ashi point, LI10} \geq {LI11}	40.48	94.44	1.37
{Ashi point, LI11} \geq {LI10}	40.48	80.95	1.31
{TE5} \geq {LI10}	33.33	87.50	1.41
{LI10, TE5} \geq {LI11}	30.95	92.86	1.34
{LU5} \geq {LI11}	30.95	86.67	1.26
{TE5} \geq {LI11}	30.95	81.25	1.18
{LI11, TE5} \geq {LI10}	30.95	100.00	1.62
{LU5} \geq {LI10}	28.57	80.00	1.29
{LI10, LU5} \geq {LI11}	26.19	91.67	1.33
{LI10, LI4} \geq {LI11}	26.19	91.67	1.33
{LI11, LU5} \geq {LI10}	26.19	84.62	1.37
{Ashi point, LI10, TE5} \geq {LI11}	23.81	100.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LU5} \geq {LI11}	23.81	90.91	1.32
{Ashi point, TE5} \geq {LI11}	23.81	83.33	1.21
{Ashi point, LI11, TE5} \geq {LI10}	23.81	100.00	1.62
{Ashi point, TE5} \geq {LI10}	23.81	83.33	1.35
{LI4, TE5} \geq {LI10}	21.43	90.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LI10, LU5} \geq {LI11}	19.05	100.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LI10, LI4} \geq {LI11}	19.05	100.00	1.45
{LI10, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI11}	19.05	88.89	1.29
{LI12} \geq {LI11}	19.05	80.00	1.16
{LI4, TE5} \geq {LI11}	19.05	80.00	1.16
{LI11, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI10}	19.05	100.00	1.62
{LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	19.05	88.89	1.44
{Ashi point, LI11, LU5} \geq {LI10}	19.05	80.00	1.29
{Ashi point, LI11, LI4} \geq {LI10}	19.05	80.00	1.29
{LI12} \geq {Ashi point}	19.05	80.00	1.08
{Ashi point, LI12} \geq {LI11}	16.67	87.50	1.27
{LI4, LU5} \geq {LI11}	16.67	87.50	1.27
{LI10, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI11}	16.67	87.50	1.27
{LI11, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	16.67	100.00	1.62
{LI4, LU5} \geq {LI10}	16.67	87.50	1.41
{LI11, LI12} \geq {Ashi point}	16.67	87.50	1.19
{LI10, LI4, LU5} \geq {TE5}	14.29	85.71	2.25
{Ashi point, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI11}	14.29	100.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LI10, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI11}	14.29	100.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI11}	14.29	85.71	1.24

{LI10, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI11}	14.29	85.71	1.24
{LI4, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	14.29	100.00	1.62
{Ashi point, LI11, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	14.29	100.00	1.62
{Ashi point, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	14.29	85.71	1.38
{LI11, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI10}	14.29	85.71	1.38
{LI11, LU5, TE5} \geq {Ashi point}	14.29	85.71	1.16
{LI11, LI4, LU5} \geq {Ashi point}	14.29	85.71	1.16
{LI10, LI11, LU5, TE5} \geq {Ashi point}	14.29	85.71	1.16
{LI10, LI11, LI4, LU5} \geq {TE5}	11.90	83.33	2.19
{Ashi point, LI10, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI11}	11.90	100.00	1.45
{Ashi point, LI10, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI11}	11.90	100.00	1.45
{LI4, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI11}	11.90	83.33	1.21
{Ashi point, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI11}	11.90	83.33	1.21
{LI10, LI4, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI11}	11.90	83.33	1.21
{LI11, LI4, LU5, TE5} \geq {LI10}	11.90	100.00	1.62
{Ashi point, LI11, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI10}	11.90	100.00	1.62
{Ashi point, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI10}	11.90	83.33	1.35
{Ashi point, LI4, TE5} \geq {LI10}	11.90	83.33	1.35
{Ashi point, LI11, LI4, LU5} \geq {LI10}	11.90	83.33	1.35
{LI10, LI11, LI4, LU5} \geq {Ashi point}	11.90	83.33	1.13