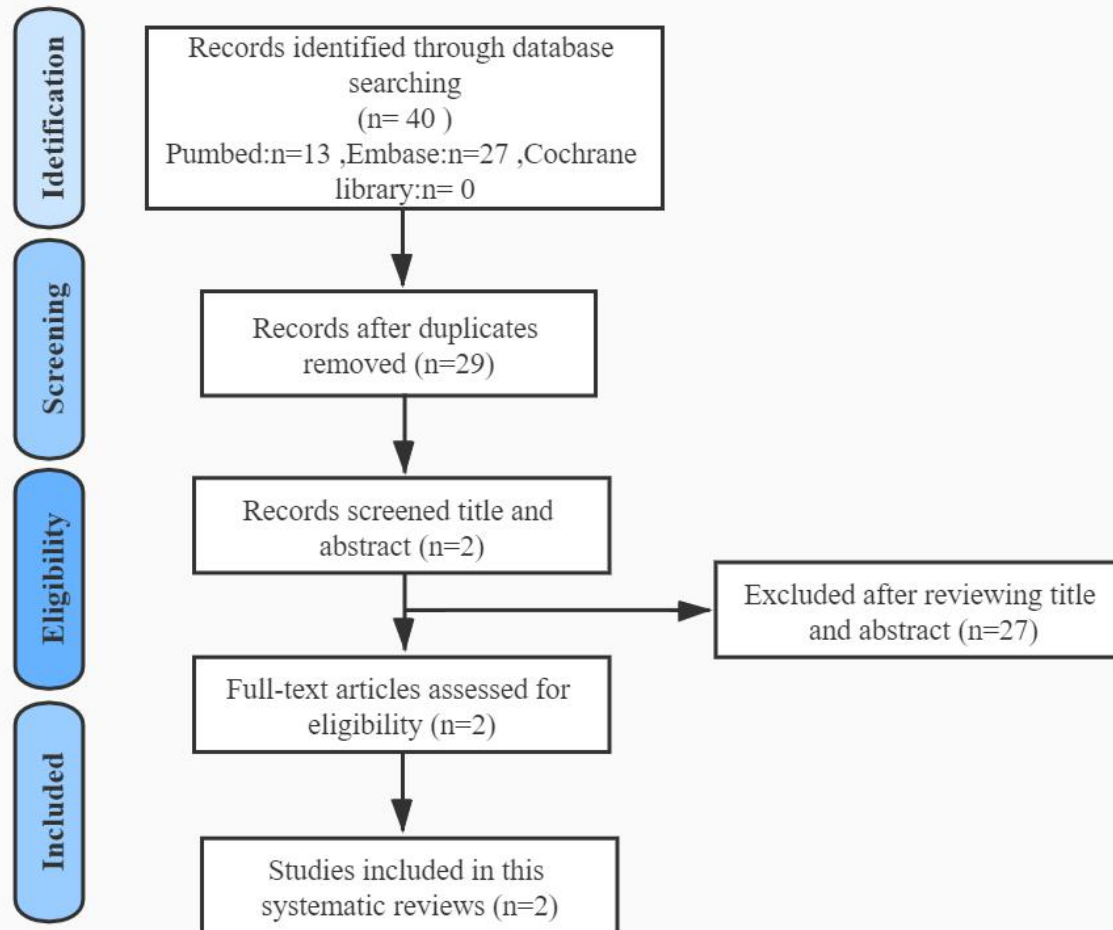


**Figure 1s The prism flowchart**



**Table S1 The detailed content of the clinical questionnaire**

**Expert information**

1. Your gender
2. Your education
3. Your working years
4. Your technical title
5. Your professional field
6. Your organization
7. Your department
8. The administrative area where your unit is located
9. Your familiarity with acupuncture treatment of sciatica

**Consensus content**

**Intervention population**

10. What kind of causes do you think acupuncture can improve sciatica?
11. What degree of sciatica do you think acupuncture can improve?

**Acupuncture measures**

12. Do you think that acupuncture treatment of sciatica requires other interventions?
13. If acupuncture treatment of sciatica needs to be combined with other traditional Chinese medicine, please choose which therapy should be combined (such as electroacupuncture, moxibustion, cupping, etc.).
14. Do you think that acupuncture treatment of sciatica needs to consider syndrome differentiation and treatment?
15. If the acupuncture treatment of sciatica requires syndrome differentiation, which syndrome type do you think acupuncture should be used for?
16. Acupuncture treatment of sciatica requires consideration of meridian differentiation.
17. Acupuncture treatment of sciatica should pay attention to the application of matching points along the meridian.
18. In the treatment of sciatica with acupuncture, which of the following meridians are mainly involved in matching points along the meridian?
19. In the treatment of sciatica with acupuncture, which of the following points are mainly involved in the matching of points along the meridian?

**Table S1 The detailed content of the clinical questionnaire**

20. Acupuncture treatment of sciatica should pay attention to the application of *Ashi* point.
21. what is the suggested number of *Ashi* when acupuncture is used to treat sciatica?
22. What do you think are the important factors affecting the clinical efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of sciatica?
23. What is the recommended number of acupuncture points usually used in the treatment of sciatica with acupuncture (two points are counted as one)?
24. What is the recommended reinforcing and reducing manipulations of acupuncture therapy when acupuncture is used to treat sciatica?
25. what is the appropriate needle stimulation time usually used when acupuncture is used to treat sciatica?
26. what is the appropriate frequency of acupuncture usually used when treating sciatica with acupuncture?
27. When acupuncture is used to treat sciatica, what is the appropriate course of acupuncture?
28. The doctors should have the qualification certificate of Chinese medicine practitioners and have more than 3 years of experience.

**Outcome indicators**

29. What clinical symptoms do you think acupuncture can improve patients with sciatica?
30. How long (months) do you think the following clinical symptoms(such as pain and discomfort in the waist and legs, movement disorders, etc.) of patients with sciatica can be improved after acupuncture treatment is over?

**Adverse reactions**

31. For the treatment of sciatica, the acupuncture has less adverse reactions.
32. For the treatment of sciatica, what are the adverse reactions of acupuncture?

**Table S2 Critical appraisal of studies included, through using the AMSTAR-2 tool**

Author(year)	AMSTAR-2																Overall quality
	Q1	Q2*	Q3	Q4*	Q5	Q6	Q7*	Q8	Q9*	Q10	Q11*	Q12	Q13*	Q14	Q15*	Q16	
Ji (2015)	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	CL
Qin (2015)	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	CL
1: Yes; 0.5: partial Yes; 0: No; CL: Critically low; L: Low; H: High																	
Q1: Did the research questions and inclusion criteria for the review include the components of PICO?																	
Q2: Did the report of the review contain an explicit statement that the review methods were established prior to the conduct of the review and did the report justify any significant deviations from the protocol?																	
Q3: Did the review authors explain their selection of the study designs for inclusion in the review?																	
Q4: Did the review authors use a comprehensive literature search strategy?																	
Q5: Did the review authors perform study selection in duplicate?																	
Q6: Did the review authors perform data extraction in duplicate?																	
Q7: Did the review authors provide a list of excluded studies and justify the exclusions?																	
Q8: Did the review authors describe the included studies in adequate detail?																	
Q9: Did the review authors use a satisfactory technique for assessing the risk of bias (RoB) in individual studies that were included in the review?																	
Q10: Did the review authors report on the sources of funding for the studies included in the review?																	
Q11: If meta-analysis was performed did the review authors use appropriate methods for statistical combination of results?																	
Q12: If meta-analysis was performed, did the review authors assess the potential impact of RoB in individual studies on the results of the meta-analysis or other evidence synthesis?																	
Q13: Did the review authors account for RoB in individual studies when interpreting/discussing the results of the review?																	
Q14: Did the review authors provide a satisfactory explanation for, and discussion of, any heterogeneity observed in the results of the review?																	
Q15: If they performed quantitative synthesis did the review authors carry out an adequate investigation of publication bias (small study bias) and discuss its likely impact on the results of the review?																	
Q16: Did the review authors report any potential sources of conflict of interest, including any funding they received for conducting the review?																	