

Insufficient evidence for effectiveness of acupuncture for neuropathic pain

Clinical Question	Compared to sham acupuncture or other active therapies, how effective is acupuncture for neuropathic pain in adults?
Bottom Line	Due to the limited data available, there was insufficient evidence to support or refute the use of acupuncture for neuropathic pain in general, or for any specific neuropathic pain condition when compared with sham acupuncture or other active therapies (mecobalamin, nimodipine, inositol and Xiaoke bitong capsules). There was a lack of evidence on the side effects of acupuncture.
Caveat	Overall, the quality of the evidence was very low, downgraded for study limitations (high risk of performance, detection and attrition bias, and high risk of bias confounded by small study size) or imprecision.
Context	Neuropathic pain may be caused by nerve damage, and is often followed by changes to the central nervous system. It affects seven to 10 percent of the general population. Uncertainty remains regarding the effectiveness and safety of acupuncture treatments for neuropathic pain, despite a number of clinical trials being undertaken.
Cochrane Systematic Review	Ju ZW et al. Acupuncture for neuropathic pain in adults. Cochrane Reviews, 2017, Issue 12. Art. No.: CD012057.DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD012057.pub2. This review contains six studies involving 462 participants.

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Cochrane systematic review link: <http://cochranelibrary-wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD012057.pub2/full>