

Supplementary file 2. Summary of Unclear effectiveness or Potentially effective conditions assessed in the 2014 reports

Category	Indication	Study	Effect	literature size	Confidence	Reason for inconclusive evidence (quote)*
Pain	Back pain	Furlan2012 [1]	U	33	Medium	"The review showed a positive effect of acupuncture compared to no treatment but noted that sham-acupuncture controlled trials tended towards statistically nonsignificant results."
Pain	Neck pain	Furlan2012 [1]	U	24	Medium	"The review came to the same conclusion as for back pain while 2 smaller reviews reported favorable results for acupuncture."
Pain	Surgery analgesia	Lee 2005 [2]	U	19	Low	"The review included 19 RCTs and the evidence was judged to be inconclusive."
Pain	Postoperative pain	Usichenko 2008 [3]	U	13	Medium	"the evidence that auricular acupuncture reduces postoperative pain is promising but not compelling."
Pain	Fibromyalgia	Cao 2010 [4]	U	12	Medium	"...effectiveness results are inconsistent within and across reviews."
Pain	Rheumatoid arthritis	Casimiro 2005 [5]	U	8	High	"A Cochrane review last updated in 2005 highlighted that conclusions are limited by methodological considerations such as the type of acupuncture, the site of intervention, the small number of clinical trials, and the small sample size of the included studies."
Pain	Shoulder pain	Green 2005 [6]	U	9	High	"...due to a small number of clinical and methodological diverse trials, little can be concluded from the review."
Pain	Dysmenorrhea	Smith 2011 [7]	P	27	High	"...further well-designed RCTs are needed..."
Pain	Osteoarthritis	Corbett 2013 [8]	P	22	Medium	"The review concluded that benefits compared to sham were small, did not meet pre-defined thresholds for clinical relevance, and were probably due at least partially to placebo effects from incomplete

						blinding, while effects compared to waiting list were clinically relevant but could be associated with expectation or placebo effects."
Pain	Ankle sprain	Park 2013 [9]	P	17	Low	"...the review was primarily based on non-indexed publications, trial quality was poor, no sham controlled RCT was identified, and the review concluded that given methodological shortcomings and the small number of high-quality primary studies, the available evidence is insufficient to recommend acupuncture as an evidence-based treatment option..."
Pain	Pain General	Madsen 2009 [10]	P	17	Medium	"...a small analgesic effect of acupuncture was found, which seems to lack clinical relevance and cannot be clearly distinguished from bias."
Pain	Cancer pain	Choi 2012 [11]	P	15	High	"...the review concluded there is insufficient evidence to judge whether acupuncture is effective in treating cancer pain in adults."
Pain	Labor	Smith 2011 [12]	P	10	High	"...all comparisons were based on one RCT each and the review concluded acupuncture may have a role in relieving pain during labor but more research is needed."
Pain	Prostatitis	Posadzki 2012 [13]	P	9	Medium	"...this result was based on one RCT only."
Pain	Plantar heel	Clark 2012 [14]	P	5	Medium	"...only 2 RCTs were classified as high quality and no pooled result was presented to determine the size of the treatment effect."
Pain	Temporomandibular joint disorder	Jung 2011 [15]	P	7	Medium	"...concluded that further rigorous studies are required to establish beyond doubt whether acupuncture has therapeutic value for this indication."
Pain	Pregnancy pain	Ee 2008 [16]	P	3	Medium	"...no pooled effect was presented to estimate the size of the treatment effect."

Wellness	Cancer AE	Garcia 2013 [17]	U	41	High	"...additional studies are needed, and for other symptoms efficacy remains undetermined due to the high risk of bias of existing studies..."
Wellness	IBS	Manheimer 2012 [18]	U	17	High	"...not sham acupuncture for symptom severity (SMD -0.11, 95% CI: -0.35, 0.013) or quality of life (SMD -0.03, 95% CI: -0.27, 0.22)."
Wellness	Rhinitis	Brinkhaus 2008 [19]	U	12	Medium	"The existing reviews did not report sufficient data to allow a reanalysis of all available RCTs."
Wellness	Premenstrual syndrome	Kim 2011 [20]	U	10	Medium	"...conflicting results across reviews..."
Wellness	Gastrointestinal disease	Schneider 2007 [21]	U	10	Medium	"...a meta-analytic reanalysis for the purpose of this review of reviews was not possible."
Wellness	Blood pressure	Lee 2009 [22]	U	11	Medium	"...the evidence is inconclusive..."
Wellness	Tinnitus	Kim 2012 [23]	U	9	Medium	"...the evidence is inconclusive..."
Wellness	Menopausal symptoms	Cho 2009 [24]	U	11	Medium	"...conflicting results across reviews..."
Wellness	Exercise performance	Urroz 2013 [25]	U	4	Medium	"...conflicting results across included studies, did not pool results, and provided insufficient details for a reanalysis without obtaining original trials data. The reviews indicate that only a limited number of individual studies are available, ranging from 2 to 6 included acupuncture RCTs."
Wellness	Dry eye	Lee 2012 [26]	U	6	Medium	"...conflicting results across included studies, did not pool results, and provided insufficient details for a reanalysis without obtaining original trials data. The reviews indicate that only a limited number of individual studies are available, ranging from 2 to 6 included acupuncture RCTs."
Wellness	Quality of life	Lu 2011 [27]	U	2	Medium	"...conflicting results across included studies, did not pool results, and provided insufficient details for a reanalysis without obtaining original trials data. The reviews indicate that only a limited number of individual

						studies are available, ranging from 2 to 6 included acupuncture RCTs."
Wellness	Xerostomia	Jedel 2005 [28]	U	4	Medium	"...conflicting results across reviews..."
Wellness	Erectile dysfunction	Lee 2009 [29]	U	2	Medium	"...conflicting results across included studies, did not pool results, and provided insufficient details for a reanalysis without obtaining original trials data. The reviews indicate that only a limited number of individual studies are available, ranging from 2 to 6 included acupuncture RCTs."
Wellness	Insomnia	Cao 2009 [30]	P	46	High	"...the current evidence is not sufficiently rigorous to support or refute acupuncture for treating insomnia..."
Wellness	Obesity	Sui 2012 [31]	P	44	Low	"...the amount of evidence is not fully convincing because of the poor methodological quality of trials reviewed."
Wellness	Smoking cessation	White 2011 [32]	P	31	High	"...here is no consistent, bias-free evidence that acupuncture, acupressure, laser therapy, or electro-stimulation are effective for smoking cessation and no firm conclusions can be drawn."
Wellness	PONV	Lee 2009 [33]	P	11	High	"...the majority of included studies evaluated acupressure or other treatments and no conclusions specific to acupuncture were presented."
Wellness	Restless legs	Cui 2008 [34]	P	2	High	"...the result was based on a single RCT and the review concluded that the evidence is insufficient."
Wellness	Constipation	Lin 2009 [35]	P	3	Low	"...no pooled effect was reported to estimate the size of the acupuncture treatment effect."
Mental health	Opiate addiction	Lin 2012 [36]	U	21	Medium	"...the majority of included studies were classified as having low quality."
Mental health	CFS	Wang 2008 [37]	U	10	Low	"...conflicting results across included studies and did neither pool the data nor report sufficient detail for a reanalysis."

Mental health	Drug addiction	Lua 2012 [38]	U	8	Medium	"...conflicting results across included studies and did neither pool the data nor report sufficient detail for a reanalysis."
Mental health	Depression	Zhang 2010 [39]	P	35	High	"...effects depend on the comparator... noted inconsistent effects from acupuncture compared with a waitlist control or sham acupuncture control. The review also noted a high risk of bias in the majority of included trials and concluded that evidence to recommend the use of acupuncture for people with depression is insufficient."
Mental health	Schizophrenia	Lee 2009 [40]	P	13	High	"...dichotomized BPRS data (improved versus not improved) were equivocal and the review concluded that there is insufficient evidence to recommend the use of acupuncture for people with schizophrenia."
Mental health	Anxiety	Pilkington 2007 [41]	P	10	Medium	"...studies lacked many basic methodological details and concluded that there is insufficient research evidence for firm conclusions..."
Mental health	PTSD	Kim 2013 [42]	P	4	Medium	"acupuncture was superior to waitlist control (posttraumatic symptom scale-self report effect size [ES] -0.98, p=0.001) and cognitive behavioral therapy alone (Revised Impact on Event Scale ES -1.56, p<0.001) based on one RCT each."

*This part was extracted from "Evidence map of acupuncture" in 2014.

U: Unclear evidence; P: Potential positive effect; NA: Not accessible