

Supplementary Files

Supplementary Table 1: Therapeutic Effective Rate Criteria and Secondary Outcomes

First author, publication year	Therapeutic Effective Rate Criteria	Secondary outcomes reported
Han, 2010 [27]	2002 guideline <u>Cure</u> : 90% lesions disappear, all clinical symptoms disappear; <u>Significant improvement</u> : 60%-89% lesions disappear, clinical symptoms significantly improved; <u>Improvement</u> : 30-59% lesions disappear, clinical symptoms improved; <u>No improvement</u> : <30% lesions disappear, or clinical symptoms worsen.	AE: I: 4 cases of itchy sensation after acupuncture, 7 cases of ecchymosis, 5 cases of painful sensation; C: 47 cases of dry mouth, 10 cases of dry skin and desquamation.
He, 2009 [28]	<u>Cure</u> : All lesions disappear; <u>Significant improvement</u> : >60% lesions disappear; <u>Improvement</u> : >30% lesions disappear; <u>No improvement</u> : <30% lesions disappear, or clinical symptoms worsen.	NS
Li, 2002 [29]	Samuelson grading system If grading >3: - <u>Significant improvement</u> : grading decrease 3 levels; - <u>Better improvement</u> : grading decrease 2 levels; - <u>Improvement</u> : grading decrease 1 level; - <u>No improvement</u> : grading no change; - <u>Worsen</u> : if grading increase 1-2 levels. If grading <3: - <u>Significant improvement</u> : lesion count decrease 90%; - <u>Better improvement</u> : lesion count decrease more than 70%; - <u>Improvement</u> : lesion count decrease more than 50%.	NS
Liu, 2011 [30]	<u>Cure</u> : >95% lesions disappear; <u>Significant improvement</u> : >60% lesions disappear; <u>Improvement</u> : >20% lesions disappear; <u>No improvement</u> : <20% lesions disappear.	NS
Mo, 2005 [32]	Standard of diagnosis and therapeutic effect of TCM diseases 中医病证诊断疗效标准 <u>Cure</u> : all lesions disappear, all clinical symptoms disappear;	NS

First author, publication year	Therapeutic Effective Rate Criteria	Secondary outcomes reported
	<u>Significant improvement</u> : >70% lesions disappear, clinical symptoms significantly improved; <u>Improvement</u> : 30-70% lesions disappear, clinical symptoms improved; <u>No improvement</u> : <30% lesions disappear, or clinical symptoms worsen.	
Tang, 2011 [33]	<u>Cure</u> : All lesions disappear; <u>Significant improvement</u> : >80% lesions disappear, new lesions <5, improvement of oily face, slight itchy sensation; <u>Improvement</u> : >30% lesions disappear, new lesions <10, slight improvement of oily face and itchy sensation; <u>No improvement</u> : <30% lesions disappear, or clinical symptoms worsen.	AE: C: 6 cases of gastrointestinal discomfort.
Wu, 2011 [34]	2002 guideline <u>Cure</u> : all lesions disappear, no pigmentation left; <u>Significant improvement</u> : most of the lesions disappear, 70%-100% decrease of the scores (based on lesion count and severity); <u>Improvement</u> : part of the lesions disappear, 30-70% decrease of the scores; <u>No improvement</u> : no improvement of the lesions, and <30% of the scores decrease.	AE: I: 5 cases of erubescence, 2 cases of ecchymosis, 6 cases of painful sensation; C: 28 cases of dry mouth, 7 cases of dry skin and slightly desquamation.
Liu, 2015 [31]	2002 Guideline: Lesion score calculated as change from baseline. <u>Cure</u> : ≥95% <u>Most improved</u> : 70-94% <u>Improved</u> : 50-69% <u>Not improved</u> : <50%.	NS
Zhang, 2014 [36]	1994 Guideline <u>Cure</u> : lesions and symptoms disappear; <u>Improved</u> : ≥30% lesions heal, symptoms improved; <u>Not improved</u> : <30% lesions heal, symptoms not improved.	AE: I: 3 cases of acne pain.
You, 2014 [35]	2002 Guideline: Lesion score calculated as change from baseline. <u>Cure</u> : ≥95% <u>Most improved</u> : 70-94% <u>Improved</u> : 50-69% <u>Not improved</u> : <50%.	Severity grading: GAGS

First author, publication year	Therapeutic Effective Rate Criteria	Secondary outcomes reported
McKee, 2004 [38]	Not applicable	Photographic grading.
Kim, 2012 [37]	Not applicable	Skindex-29; photographic grading; Korean Acne Severity Scale.

Key: I: Intervention; C: Control; AE: adverse events; GAGS: Global Acne Grading System; NS: Not stated

Supplementary Table 2: Assessment of Reporting of STRICTA items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Han</u> <u>2010</u> <u>[27]</u>	<u>He</u> <u>2009</u> <u>[28]</u>	<u>Li</u> <u>2002</u> <u>[29]</u>	<u>Liu 2011</u> <u>[30]</u>	<u>Mo</u> <u>2005</u> <u>[32]</u>	<u>Tang</u> <u>2011</u> <u>[33]</u>	<u>Wu</u> <u>2011</u> <u>[34]</u>	<u>Liu</u> <u>2015</u> <u>[31]</u>	<u>Zhang</u> <u>2014</u> <u>[36]</u>	<u>You</u> <u>2014</u> <u>[36]</u>	<u>McKee</u> <u>2004 [38]</u>	<u>Kim</u> <u>2012</u> <u>[37]</u>
1. Acupuncture rationale	1a) Style of acupuncture (e.g. Traditional Chinese Medicine, Japanese, Korean, Western medical, Five Element, ear acupuncture, etc)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	1b) Reasoning for treatment provided, based on historical context, literature sources, and/or consensus methods, with references where appropriate	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
	1c) Extent to which treatment was varied	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2. Details of needling	2a) Number of needle insertions per subject per session (mean and range where relevant)	N	N	N	NA (auricular)	N	N	N	N	NA (plum blossom needle)	N	Y	Y
	2b) Names (or location if no standard name) of points used (uni/bilateral)	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y	Y	NA	Y	Y	Y
	2c) Depth of insertion, based on a specified unit of measurement, or on a particular tissue level	N	N	Y	NA	N	N	N	N	NA	N	Auricular	Y
	2d) Response sought (e.g. <i>de qi</i> or muscle twitch response)	N	N	N	NA	N	N	N	Y	NA	Y	Auricular	N

[illegible]

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Han 2010 [27]</u>	<u>He 2009 [28]</u>	<u>Li 2002 [29]</u>	<u>Liu 2011 [30]</u>	<u>Mo 2005 [32]</u>	<u>Tang 2011 [33]</u>	<u>Wu 2011 [34]</u>	<u>Liu 2015 [31]</u>	<u>Zhang 2014 [36]</u>	<u>You 2014 [36]</u>	<u>McKee 2004 [38]</u>	<u>Kim 2012 [37]</u>
6. Control or comparator interventions	6a) Rationale for the control or comparator in the context of the research question, with sources that justify this choice	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
	6b) Precise description of the control or comparator. If sham acupuncture or any other type of acupuncture-like control is used, provide details as for Items 1 to 3 above.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Key: Y: Yes; N: No; NA: Not applicable