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Cupping therapy for treating ankylosing spondylitis: Protocol for a

systematic review

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Abstract

Introduction: Cupping therapy has been widely used in Eastern Asia, the Middle East, and

Central and Northern Europe to manage the symptoms of ankylosing spondylitis (AS). The aim of

this systematic review is to review data from randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of cupping

therapy for treating patients with AS.

Methods: Databases that will be searched from their inception until February 2018: MEDLINE,

CINAHL, EMBASE, AMED, Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, six Korean

databases [Korean Studies Information, DBPIA, Korean Institute of Science and Technology

Information, KERIS, KoreaMed and Korean National Assembly Library] as well as four Chinese

databases [Chinese BioMedical Database, China National Knowledge Infrastructure, Wan-Fang

Data, and the Chinese WeiPu Database]. In this systematic review, only RCTs related to the

effects of cupping therapy on ASAS management will be included. In addition, the two

groups will also receive a regular rehabilitation intervention. A quantitative synthesis of RCTs

will be conducted using the RevMan 5.3 software. Study selection, data extraction, and validation

will be performed independently by two reviewers. Cochrane Quantitative analysis of RCTs will

also be performed using RevMan 5.3 software, and the Cochrane criteria for risk-of-bias..

Ethics and dissemination: This systematic review will not use data from individual patients, and

1

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