
Needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment compared to sham acupuncture plus conventional treatment for children and young people with autism spectrum disorder

Patient or population: children and young people with autism spectrum disorder

Settings:

Intervention: needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment

Comparison: sham acupuncture plus conventional treatment

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Assumed risk	Corresponding risk				
	Sham acupuncture plus conventional treatment	Needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment				
Improvement in total score Ritvo-Freeman Real Life Rating Scale (RFRLRS) Follow-up: 4-8 weeks		The mean improvement in total score in the intervention groups was 0.09 higher (0.03 lower to 0.21 higher)		105 (2 studies)	⊕⊕⊕⊖ low ^{1,2}	

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the median control group risk across studies) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval;

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

¹ many outcomes, the same author on review and both of the included primary studies

² n<400, 95% CI on both side of no effect

Needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment compared to conventional treatment for children and young people with autism spectrum disorder

Patient or population: children and young people with autism spectrum disorder

Settings:

Intervention: needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment

Comparison: conventional treatment

Outcomes	Illustrative comparative risks* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	No of Participants (studies)	Quality of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Conventional treatment	Needle acupuncture plus conventional treatment				
Improvement in total score Ritvo-Freeman Real Life Rating Scale (RFRLRS) Follow-up: 4-8 weeks		The mean improvement in total score in the intervention groups was 0.09 higher (0.03 lower to 0.21 higher)		65 (2 studies)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ low ^{1,2,3}	
Improvement in total score Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC) Follow-up: 4-8 weeks		The mean improvement in total score in the intervention groups was 6.28 higher (1.05 lower to 13.61 higher)		57 (2 studies)	⊕⊕⊖⊖ low ^{3,4}	

*The basis for the **assumed risk** (e.g. the median control group risk across studies) is provided in footnotes. The **corresponding risk** (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: Confidence interval;

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

High quality: Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect.

Moderate quality: Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the

estimate of effect and may change the estimate.

Low quality: Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate.

Very low quality: We are very uncertain about the estimate.

¹ unclear risk of bias

² many outcomes, the same author on review and both of the included primary studies

³ n<400, 95% CI on both side of no effect

⁴ Two studies with unclear risk of bias and one study with low risk of bias
