



## Explanation of issues in “*Is scalp-based acupuncture and moxibustion better than conventional rehabilitation therapy for children with cerebral palsy’ from the readers?*”

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We are glad that our study (1) provided at least some useful information. For the issues mentioned in the article by Feng *et al.* (2), our answers are listed below.

First, for the search databases, we selected only 1 English database, PubMed, and 3 Chinese databases for the literature. We did not include Scopus, Cochrane, WOS, because we noticed the topic of this article is all about an external treatment of Traditional Chinese Medicine, which is seldom reported in English language databases. So, we presumed that PubMed is fully enough to cover all the English articles about this topic. Basically, we found 0 articles in English database in the end.

Also, we used a free keyword mode for the search process, the keywords have been provided in the text. It is a broad range search strategy which would cover all the articles.

Second, PROSPERO registration is not strictly required based on the PRISMA guideline. We did not register our review on PROSPERO or Cochrane due to time limit, which is kind of an omission for our workflow. However, that will not change the results of this meta-analysis.

We did not provide a Jadad score in *Tab. 1*, but we assess the quality of the studies with Cochrane RoB 2.0 published

in 2016, which provided more detailed items to assess the risk of bias for the randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies. Please check *Fig. 3* for the overall risk of bias for each study.

Third, we did perform sensitivity analysis in the section “Sensitivity analysis”. Please check on that.

For the publication bias, the number of included studies is 10, a funnel plot could display the bias more clearly. However, we should have used Begg’s or Egger’s test for more accuracy.

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