

Table S1 Basic information of included studies

Study (year)	Sample size (n) (EG/CG)	Sex (n) (Male/Female)	Age (year)	Stroke type (n) (CI/CH)	Course of disease (d=day, m=month, w=week, y=year)
Guan ZM 2016 (27)	120 (60/60)	EG: 36/24; CG: 40/20	EG: 60.36±2.23; CG: 61.57±1.96	EG: 37/18; CG: 45/11	-
Shi SF 2012 (28)	57 (30/27)	EG: 18 /12; CG: 16/11	EG: 60.14±11.82; CG: 59.84±10.54	EG: 22/8; CG: 16/11	EG: (7.79±4.29)d; CG: (6.92±4.74)d
Bi Y 2012 (29)	60 (30/30)	EG: 20/10; CG: 17/13	EG: 28-82; CG: 31-80	EG: 25/5; CG: 23/7	-
Jin Z 2015 (30)	60 (30/30)	EG: 17/13; CG: 16/14	EG: 55.4±11.6; CG: 56.8±12.0	EG: 12/18; CG: 11/19	EG: (77.2±32.0)d; CG: (77.4±32.7)d
Cao WJ 2012 (31)	80 (40/40)	EG: 26/14; CG: 24/16	EG: 52-72; CG: 50-74	-	EG: 3-7 m; CG: 3-8 m
Gong XQ 2013 (32)	70 (30/20/20)	EG: 21/9; CGa: 14/6 CGb: 11/9	EG: 63.57±4.43; CGa: 66.14±5.06 CGb: 64.57±4.43	EG: 22/8; CGa: 17/3; CGb: 12/8	EG: (164.54±57.91)d; CGa: (170.01±62.44)d; CGb: (164.54±57.91)d
Zhang LY 2019 (33)	120 (40/40/40)	EG: 21/19; CGa: 26/14 CGb: 23/17	EG: 65.01±9.53; CGa: 62.24±9.13 CGb: 61.00±9.87	EG: 17/23; CGa: 15/25; CGb: 15/25	EG: (5.36±2.91)w; CGa: (5.10±2.80)w; CGb: (5.98±3.33)w
Sun N 2018 (34)	62 (31/31)	EG: 17/14; CG: 16/15	EG: 51.27±3.40; CG: 49.33±3.72	EG: 18/13; CG: 19/12	EG: (19.45±5.84)d; CG: (20.12±5.07)d
Zhao FG 2018 (35)	80 (40/40)	EG: 23/17; CG: 25/15	EG: 61±9; CG: 63±8	-	-
Jian JY 2019 (46)	80 (40/40)	EG: 15/25; CG: 20/20	EG: 46-72; CG: 49-68	-	EG: 4 m-6y CG: 7m-5y
Han J 2014 (47)	60 (30/30)	EG: 20/10; CG: 18/12	EG: 58.20±6.10; CG: 56.42±8.50	EG: 26/4 CG: 25/5	EG: (28±2.3)d CG: (29±2.1)d
Xu Y 2017 (48)	60 (30/30)	EG: 17 /13; CG: 18/12	EG: 60.16±9.06; CG: 74.2±34.1	-	-
Zhao J 2015 (49)	160 (80/80)	EG: 53/27; CG: 54/26	EG: 63.83±12.65; CG: 64.11±13.19	-	-
Xue JQ 2017 (50)	60 (30/30)	EG: 18/12; CG: 14/16	EG: 63.36±15.5; CG: 62.43±12.4	EG: 25/5; CG: 24/6	EG: (2.24±0.38)d; CG: (2.15±0.45)d
Li G 2019 (51)	120 (30/30/30/30)	EG: 17/13; CGa: 16/14; CGb: 15/15; CGc: 15/15	EG: 60.36±3.73; CGa: 60.12±3.62; CGb: 60.32±3.68; CGc: 60.37±3.67	-	EG: (15.47±3.74)d; CGa: (15.43±3.62)d; CGb: (15.48±3.67)d; CGc: (15.49±3.68)d
Dong BJ 2011 (52)	60 (30/30)	EG: 15/15; CG: 16/14	EG: 35-74; CG: 40-72	EG: 18/12; CG: 17/13	EG: 3-70 d; CG: 10-60 d
Zhao YY 2013 (53)	32 (16/16)	EG: 10/6; CG: 9/7	EG: 55.10±7.35; CG: 52.29±8.10	-	EG: 3-7 d; CG: 3-7 d
Yang L 2017 (54)	120 (40/40/40)	EG: 26/14; CGa: 25/15; CGb: 27/13	EG: 57.68±10.47; CGa: 58.11±11.43; CGb: 56.97±12.83	-	EG: (72.45±12.84)d; CGa: (71.83±11.69)d; CGb: (72.87±13.67) d
Zou HH 2017 (55)	97 (48/49)	EG: 22/10; CG: 19/13	EG: 64.5±10.37; CG: 62.3±9.48	-	EG: (14.65±5.19) m; CG: (15.09±4.44) m
Zhao YF 2015 (56)	60 (30/30)	EG: 26/4; CG: 25/5	EG: 60.5±9.8; CG: 61.3±9.4	-	-
Ge HH 2021 (57)	72 (36/36)	EG: 27/9; CG: 25/11	EG: 55.31±11.61; CG: 53.69±12.92	-	EG: (9.37±5.19)m; CG: (9.81±4.99)m
Chen YY 2021 (58)	58 (29/29)	EG: 17 /12; CG: 11/18	EG: 62.87±8.66; CG: 63.00±6.50	-	EG: (24.24±1.19)d; CG: (23.54±1.25)d
He H 2019 (59)	70 (35/35)	EG: 15/20; CG: 17/18	EG: 61.20±10.27; CG: 57.86±12.11	EG: 25/10; CG: 29/6	EG: (10.57±6.06)d; CG: (9.54±6.19)d
Yu XM 2007 (60)	82 (44/38)	EG: 26/18; CG: 23/15	EG: 40-79; CG: 42-80	EG: 38/6; CG: 34/4	EG: 20d-6m; CG: 20d-6m
Yuan YL 2020 (61)	30 (15/15)	17/13	64.35	-	0.5-3m
Hao PF 2018 (62)	120 (60/60)	EG: 38/22; CG: 36/24	EG: 59.3±8.7; CG: 59.6±9.1	EG: 25/35; CG: 28/32	EG: (1.02±0.68)m; CG: (1.00±0.74)m
Jia L 2016 (63)	60 (30/30)	EG: 18 /12; CG: 18/12	EG: 62.30±11.29; CG: 62.37±11.46	-	-
Luo KT 2012 (64)	60 (32/28)	EG: 18/14; CG: 17/11	EG: 56.21; CG: 57.43	EG: 29/3; CG: 24/4	EG: (72.05±54.22)d; CG: (71.32±52.16)d
Zeng XQ 2005 (65)	60 (30/30)	EG: 18/12; CG: 19/11	EG: 60.5±10.17; CG: 62.7±9.28	-	-
Gao HY 2019 (66)	90 (45/45)	EG: 23/22; CG: 24/21	EG: 50.1±12.3; CG: 49.7±11.7	-	EG: (60.8±12.3)d; CG: (61.3±11.1)d
Liu H 2020 (67)	80 (40/40)	EG: 25/15; CG: 24/16	EG: 65.1±7.2; CG: 63.2±8.5	-	EG: (3.13±1.40)m; CG: (2.85±1.72)m
Qi HM 2009 (68)	64 (32/32)	EG: 22/10; CG: 19/13	EG: 64.5±10.37; CG: 62.3±9.48	-	-
Liu SD 2012 (69)	90 (30/30/30)	EG: 18 /12; CGa: 16/14 CGb: 19/11	EG: 56.02±11.23; CGa: 58.21±10.46 CGb: 55.36±12.01	-	EG: (71.20±11.15)d; CGa: (70.38±12.03)d CGb: (72.01±11.23)d
Zhang BD 2018 (70)	150 (50/50/50)	EG: 24/26; CGa: 23/27 CGb: 24/26	EG: 54±3.9; CGa: 56±3.7 CGb: 56±3.5	-	EG: (2±1.1)m; CGa: (2±1.1)m CGb: (2±1.1)m
Hao P 2018 (71)	92 (46/46)	EG: 29/17; CG: 26/20	EG: 57.51±10.84; CG: 59.27±11.24	EG: 39/7; CG: 38/8	-
Chen LZ 2011 (72)	90 (30/30/30)	EG: 14/16; CGa: 15/15; CGb: 16/14	EG: 60±8; CGa: 61±7; CGb: 60±5	EG: 22/8; CGa: 20/10; CGb: 21/9	EG: (28.20±6.70)d; CGa: (27.66±6.90)d; CGb: (28.10±6.34)d
Liu XM 2020 (73)	114 (57/57)	EG: 33/24; CG: 35/22	EG: 61.55±3.69; CG: 61.56±3.71	EG: 37/20; CG: 36/21	EG: (4.57±0.78)w; CG: (4.56±0.76)w
Shi JL 2021 (74)	65 (35/30)	EG: 19 /16; CG: 16/14	EG: 58.96±4.27; CG: 58.8±4.53	EG: 35; CG: 35	-
Wu LL 2021 (75)	80 (40/40)	EG: 22/18; CG: 23/17	EG: 49.15±9.21; CG: 49.28±9.32	-	EG: (2.49±1.13)m; CG: (2.62±1.03)m
Xu JM 2010 (76)	61 (30/31)	EG: 23/7; CG: 26/5	EG: 52.6±12.7; CG: 52.2±12.3	-	EG: (2.80±2.13)m; CG: (2.48±1.69)m
He M 2018 (77)	80 (40/40)	EG: 20/20; CG: 21/19	EG: 64; CG: 66	EG: 22/18; CG: 19/21	-
Kang k 2017 (78)	88 (44/44)	EG: 23/21; CG: 24/20	EG: 53.56±2.45; CG: 53.90±2.81	-	EG: (5.54±0.35)d; CG: (5.01±0.41)d
Liang J 2014 (79)	193 (65/63/65)	103/90	52.29±8.10	-	3-7d
Wang GN 2016 (80)	180 (60/60/60)	118/62	42-79	-	-
Wu ZJ 2014 (81)	270 (90/90/90)	EG: 49/41; CGa: 55/35; CGb: 51/39	EG: 60±10; CGa: 61±10; CGb: 60±9	EG: 52/38; CGa: 63/27; CGb: 46/44	EG: (3.9±7.8)m; CGa: (2.7±6.7)m; CGb: (3.5±5.7)m
Yu JH 2017 (82)	120 (40/40/40)	64/56	53.3±7.4	-	-
Hao PF 2017 (83)	60 (30/30)	EG: 21/9; CG: 24/6	EG: 54.3-70.3; CG: 56.8-72.2	EG: 21/9; CG: 22/8	EG: 5.6m; CG: -

EG: experience group. CG: control group. CI: cerebral infarction. CH: cerebral hemorrhage.

**Table S2** The STRICTA criteria scoring result summary

Items	Description	No. of positive trials	%	Cohen's $\kappa$ coefficient	95% CI
1. Acupuncture rationale (explanations and examples)	1a) Style of acupuncture (eg, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Japanese, Korean, Western medical, Five Element, ear acupuncture).	47	100.0	1.00	1.00
	1b) Reasoning for provided treatment, based on historical context, literature sources, or consensus methods, with references where appropriate.	39	83.0	0.76	(0.51, 1.02)
	1c) Extent to which treatment varied.	5	10.6	0.90	(0.70, 1.10)
2. Details of needling (explanations and examples)	2a) Number of needle insertions per subject per session (mean and range where relevant).	4	8.5	1.00	1.00
	2b) Names (or location if there was no standard name) of points used (uni/bilateral).	46	97.9	1.00	1.00
	2c) Depth of insertion, based on a specified unit of measurement, or on a particular tissue level.	35	74.5	0.84	(0.66, 1.02)
	2d) Response sought (eg, de qi or muscle twitch response).	29	61.7	0.83	(0.67, 0.99)
	2e) Needle stimulation (eg, manual, electrical).	44	93.6	0.85	(0.55, 1.14)
	2f) Needle retention time.	42	89.4	0.88	(0.64, 1.11)
	2g) Needle type (diameter, length, and manufacturer or material).	24	51.1	0.83	(0.67, 0.99)
3. Treatment regimen (Explanations and examples)	3a) Number of treatment sessions.	46	97.9	1.00	1.00
	3b) Frequency and duration of treatment sessions	42	100	1.00	1.00
4. Other components of treatment (explanations and examples)	4a) Details of other interventions administered to the acupuncture group (eg, moxibustion, cupping, herbs, exercises, lifestyle change).	43	91.5	1.00	1.00
	4b) Setting and context of treatment, including instructions to practitioners, information and explanations to patients.	29	61.7	0.91	(0.79, 1.03)
5. Practitioner background (explanations and examples)	5) Description of participating acupuncturists (qualifications or professional affiliations, years in acupuncture practice, other relevant experiences).	0	0	1.00	1.00
6. Control or comparator interventions (explanations and examples)	6a) The rationale for the control or comparator in the context of the research question, with sources that justify this choice.	46	97.9	0.66	(0.03, 1.28)
	6b) A precise description of the control or comparator. If sham acupuncture or any other type of acupuncture-like control was used, provide details as in items 1–3 above.	39	83.0	0.76	(0.51, 1.02)