

Table SI. Search strategy for PubMed.

No.	Search terms
1	‘Postherpetic neuralgia’ [exploded MeSH] OR ‘Postherpetic neuralgia’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Post-herpetic neuralgia’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Post herpetic neuralgia’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘PHN’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘post-herpetic pain’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘post herpetic pain’ [Title/Abstract]
2	‘Neuralgia’ [exploded MeSH] OR ‘Pain’ [exploded MeSH] OR ‘neuralgia’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Pain’ [Title/Abstract]) AND (‘Herpes zoster’ [exploded MeSH] OR ‘Zoster’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Shingles’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Zona’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘VZV’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘HZ’ [Title/Abstract]
3	#1 OR #2
4	‘Acupuncture’ [Mesh] OR ‘Cupping’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Moxibustion’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Chinese External Medicine’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Electroacupuncture’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Fire Needle’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Bloodletting’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Acupuncture injection’ [Title/Abstract]
5	‘Randomized Controlled Trial’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Controlled Clinical Trial’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Clinical Trial’ [Title/Abstract] OR ‘Clinical Trial’ [Publication Type] OR ‘RCT’ [Title/Abstract]
6	#3 AND #4 AND #5

Table SII. Incidence of adverse reactions.

Author, year	Number of cases (Exp/Ctr)	Intervention (Exp/Ctr)	Operating point	Cases of adverse reactions (Exp/Ctr)	(Ref.)
Gao, 2019	30/30	PC+A+TCM/Carbamazepine	Ashi Xue	N	(14)
Liu, 2019	40/40	PC/Pregabalin	Ashi Xue	N	(15)
Lu, 2019	30/30	PC+A/Pregabalin	Ashi Xue	N	(16)
Ma, 2014	68/68	PC+A+TCM/VitB1	Ashi Xue	2/2	(17)
Tang, 2019	30/30	PC+A/Pregabalin	Ashi Xue	N	(18)
Tian, 2013	32/32	PC/Pregabalin	Ashi Xue	N	(19)
Wang, 2016	49/40	PC+TCM/Ibuprofen	Ashi Xue	N	(20)
Wang, 2019	39/39	PC+A/Pregabalin	Ashi Xue	N	(21)
Wang, 2020	35/35	PC/Gabapentin	Ashi Xue	N	(22)
Wen, 2015	25/25	PC+A/Carbamazepine, Mecobalamin, VitB1	Ashi Xue	N	(23)
Xing, 2019	36/36	PC+A/Gabapentin	Ashi Xue	N	(24)
Yu 2018,	115/115	PC+A+TCM/Paracetamol, Codeine	Ashi Xue	2/15	(25)
Zhao, 2013	42/38	PC+TCM/Carbamazepine	Ashi Xue	0/2	(26)

Exp, experimental group; Ctr, control group; TCM, Traditional Chinese Medicine; PC, blood-letting puncture and cupping; A, acupuncture; N, not mentioned.