

Table 1. Characteristics of included studies – Acupunctuur

Study	Participants (number, age, other important characteristics)	Comparison	Follow-up	Outcome measures	Comments	Risk of bias (per outcome measure)*
Estores, 2017	<p>N at baseline</p> <p>Intervention: 12</p> <p>Control: 8</p> <p>Age (mean)</p> <p>Intervention: 41.1 years</p> <p>Control: 46.1 years</p> <p>Sex (% female)</p> <p>Intervention: 16.7%</p> <p>Control: 25.0%</p> <p>Mean time of lesion (SD)</p> <p>Intervention: 7.6 years</p> <p>Control: 13.0 years</p> <p>ASIA scale</p> <p>Intervention: A:4 B:1 C:4 D:3</p>	<p>Intervention:</p> <p>Immediate treatment with ten-needle BFA</p> <p><i>Once weekly sessions for eight weeks. Needles were placed on both ears at five established acupoint zones</i></p> <p>Control:</p> <p>Waiting list followed by the BFA protocol</p> <p><i>After an eight-week observation period participants in the control group received the same intervention</i></p>	4 weeks	Pain (assessed by using NRS)	The study received a grant from the Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation. The authors declared no competing interests.	High

	Control: A:1 B:1 C:2 D:4 NRS (SD) Intervention: 7.75 (1.54) Control: 6.25 (1.04)					
Norrbrink, 2011 CCT, Sweden	N at baseline Intervention: 15 Control: 15 Age (mean, SD) Intervention: 49.8 (9.2) years Control: 47.1 (11.1) years Sex (% female) Intervention: 20% Control: 20% Mean time of lesion (SD) Intervention: 12.9 (9.0) years Control: 11.9 (12.3) years	Intervention: Massage <i>Twice weekly sessions for six weeks</i> Control: Western medical acupuncture <i>30-min sessions twice weekly for six weeks, 13-15 individually chosen acupuncture points per session</i>	2 months	Pain (defined as general, present, and worst pain and pain unpleasantness assessed by using VAS) Complications Quality of life	Comparison between treatment options only, no control arm without treatment included. The study received grants from The Swedish Association of Persons with Neurological Disabilities. The authors declared no competing interests.	High for all outcome measures.

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	ASIA scale Intervention: NR Control: NR General pain at baseline, median VAS (IQR) Intervention: 63 (53-70) Control: 62 (33-70)					
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Abbreviations: ASIA = American spinal injury association; BFA = Battlefield Acupuncture; CCT = controlled clinical trial; NR = not reported; NRS = numeric rating scale; SCI = spinal cord injury; SD = standard deviation; VAS = visual analogue scale.

**For further details, see risk of bias table in the appendix*