

Table 1. Characteristics of included studies

Study	Participants (number, age, other important characteristics)	Comparison	Follow-up	Outcome measures	Comments	Risk of bias (per outcome measure)*
Arienti, 2011 <i>RCT, Italy</i>	<p>N at baseline</p> <p>Intervention: 7</p> <p>Control-1: 7</p> <p>Control-2: 7</p> <p>Age (mean, SD)</p> <p>Intervention: 46.5 (12.2) years</p> <p>Control-1: 44.1 (15.0) years</p> <p>Control-2: 32.4 (9.4) years</p> <p>Sex (% female)</p> <p>Intervention: 0%</p> <p>Control-1: 14%</p> <p>Control-2: 43%</p> <p>Mean time of lesion (SD)</p> <p>Intervention: 8.0 (2.8) years</p>	<p>Intervention:</p> <p>Osteopathic manipulation treatment (OMT)</p> <p><i>Seven sessions of 45-min each during eight weeks of treatment</i></p> <p>Control-1:</p> <p>Pharmacological treatment</p> <p><i>Pregabalin (600 mg/day) for eight weeks</i></p> <p>Control-2:</p> <p>Combined treatment</p> <p><i>OMT and pregabalin for eight weeks</i></p>	24 weeks	Pain	<p>Comparison between treatment options only, no control arm without treatment included.</p> <p>No funding source has been reported. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.</p>	High

	Control-1: 8.4 (2.4) years Control-2: 8.6 (2.7) years ASIA scale Intervention: 5A:2C:1D Control-1: 4A:2B:1C Control-2: 4A:1B:1C:1D Mean LANSS (SD) Intervention: 17.0 (2.5) Control-1: 16.9 (2.7) Control-2: 17.7 (3.8)					
Norrbrink, 2011 <i>CCT, Sweden</i>	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: 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 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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	Intervention: 20% Control: 20% Mean time of lesion (SD) Intervention: 12.9 (9.0) years Control: 11.9 (12.3) years ASIA scale Intervention: NR Control: NR Mean LANSS (SD) Intervention: NR Control: NR					
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Abbreviations: ASIA = American spinal injury association; CCT = controlled clinical trial; LANSS = leeds assessment of neuropathic symptoms and signs; NR = not reported; OMT = osteopathic manipulation treatment; RCT = randomized controlled trial; SCI = spinal cord injury; SD = standard deviation.

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