

Table SII. The detailed data of the clinical responses to treatments

Atopic eczema						
Author	Group	EASI	VAS ^a	Quality of life score ^b	SCORAD	POEM
Pfab et al (6), 2011	A		-24 ± 31		-5.6 ± 3.5	
	C		29 ± 9		3.5 ± 3.4	
Kang et al (4), 2018	A ^c	-0.93 ± 1.477	-3.435 ± 21.77	-5.9 ± 3.872	-13.047 ± 9.899	-7.6 ± 8.262
	C	-0.54 ± 1.043	-2.015 ± 2.209	-4.5 ± 3.308	-4.591 ± 5.014	-4.9 ± 4.581
Park et al (5), 2021	A	-1.72 ± 5.052	-2.015 ± 2.209	-3.77 ± 5.064	-11.83 ± 10.412	-4.7 ± 6
	C	0.66 ± 5.056		-4.48 ± 5.072	0.45 ± 11.056	-2.53 ± 5.98
Chronic eczema						
Author	Group	EASI	VAS ^a	Quality of life score ^b	Global symptom improvement ^d (n/N)	
Huang et al (S1), 2004	A				29/35	
	C				21/32	
Wang et al (S2), 2011	A	-13.41 ± 9.362			26/32	
	C	-11.86 ± 7.263			17/30	
Jiao et al (S3), 2015	A	-2.09 ± 4.233	-1.62 ± 1.147		19/29	
	C	-1.16 ± 3.759	-1.07 ± 1.330		9/29	
Zou et al (S4), 2016	A	-10.22 ± 5.53			18/32	
	C	-7 ± 4.33			4/31	
Liang et al (S5), 2016	A	-10.67 ± 4.365			20/30	
	C	-7.99 ± 5.439			18/30	
Jia et al (S6), 2016	A		-6.28 ± 1.342		24/30	
	C		-4.16 ± 1.687		19/30	
Li et al (S7), 2017	A	-3.73 ± 0.4	-0.92 ± 0.203	-4.8 ± 1.572		

	C	-4.07 ± 0.466	-0.69 ± 0.175	-5.58 ± 1.424	
Liu et al (7), 2017	A	-1.66 ± 1.912	-1.8 ± 1.095	-9.2 ± 14.181	13/30
	C	-1.21 ± 2.131	-2.017 ± 1.720	-9.44 ± 11.864	4/30
Li et al (S8), 2018 (a)	A	-3.89 ± 2.147	-27.13 ± 16.957	-3.96 ± 1.28	22/30
	C	-1.17 ± 2.131	-7.33 ± 16.251	-1.87 ± 1.25	10/30
Li et al (S9), 2018 (b)	A	-6.45 ± 2.966	-5.98 ± 0.338	-6.3 ± 0.592	19/30
	C	-3.59 ± 3.418	-3.91 ± 0.389	-4.33 ± 0.619	13/30
Liu et al (S10), 2018	A				27/33
	C				19/33

A, acupuncture group; C, control group; EASI, eczema area and severity index; POEM, patient oriented eczema measure; SCORAD, severity scoring of atopic dermatitis; VAS, visual analogue scale

All data except global symptom improvement was the change of scores after treatment and expressed as mean ± standard deviation. If there are multiple follow-up time points, we used the data most closed to 28 days as the post data.

a Itch intensity by visual analogue scale. The score in the study of Pfab et al (6) ranged from 0-100 and ranged 0-10 in other studies.

b Quality of life score was evaluated by quality of life scale for chronic eczema in the study of Liu et al (7) and evaluated by dermatology life quality index in other studies.

c We used the dataset of twice a week treatment frequency

d Global symptom improvement was based on the EASI score. Effect index was calculated as (EASI baseline score – EASI score after treatment)/ EASI baseline score × 100%. n= number of patients with more than 60 % improvement; N= overall patients. In the study of Wang et al (S2), Jia et al (S4), Zou et al (S6), Liu et al (7), Li et al (S8), n= number of patients with more than 70 % improvement; and in the study of Liu et al (S10), n= number of patients with more than 75 % improvement.

Table III. Adverse event of acupuncture

Atopic eczema		
Author	Complication number	Adverse event
Pfab et al (6), 2011	0	None of the patients dropped out or experienced a serious adverse event
Kang et al (4), 2018	8	1) contusion (n = 3), diarrhea (n = 2), cold (n = 2), and incised wound of the right index finger (n = 1). 2) No serious adverse events occurred during the study period
Park et al (5), 2021	4	1) dyspepsia(n=2), heartburn(n=1) ,numbness of the left forearm (n=1) 2) No serious adverse events occurred during the study period.
Chronic eczema		
Author	Complication number	Adverse event
Huang et al (S1), 2004	NA	NA
Wang et al (S2), 2011	6	1) itching (n=4), tingling (n=2) 2) No serious adverse events occurred during the study period.
Jiao et al (S3), 2015	NA	NA
Zou et al (S4), 2016	0	None
Liang et al (S5), 2016	NA	NA
Jia et al (S6), 2016	NA	NA
Li et al (S7), 2017	NA	NA
Liu et al (7), 2017	NA	NA
Li et al (S8), 2018 (a)	3	mild subcutaneous hemorrhage (n=3)
Li et al (S9), 2018 (b)	NA	NA
Liu et al (S10), 2018	NA	NA

Supplemental Reference

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- S4. Zou PH. The clinical study on treating chronic eczema (aggregates of spleen deficient-wet type) with fire needle. Guangzhou, China: Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine. 2016 (in Chinese).
- S5. Liang FL. Clinical study of fire needle curing chronic eczema. Guangzhou, China: Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine. 2016 (in Chinese).
- S6. Jia H and Jin Z. Clinical observation on treating chronic eczema by fire needling treatment. *JCAM*. 2016; 32: 58–59 (in Chinese).
- S7. Li M, Wang YY, Gou CY, Qiao XL, Liu YB, Wang YG, et al. Clinical study of moxibustion with thin medicinal moxa stick in treatment of chronic eczema. *Journal of Practical Traditional Chinese Medicine*. 2017;33:1195-1197 (in Chinese).
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- S10. Liu Y and ZHU J. Research on the clinical effect and the influence of EASI, pruritus score and serum factor levels for treating chronic eczema with fire needle. *Journal of Liaoning university of TCM* 2018; 20:119-121.