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# Phantom Limb Syndrome

## Douleur du membre fantôme : évaluation de l'acupuncture

### 1. Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis

#### 1.1. Hu 2014

Hu Xiaoyang, Trevelyan E, Yang G, Lee MS et al. The effectiveness of acupuncture/TENS for phantom limb syndrome. I: A systematic review of controlled clinical trials. European Journal of Integrative Medicine. 2014;6(3):355-364. [206875]. [doi](#)

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| <b>Introduction</b> | Phantom limb pain (PLP)/phantom limb sensation (PLS) is common in amputees and difficult to treat but either acupuncture or transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) may provide relief. A systematic review of controlled studies was carried out to explore clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and adverse effects of these treatments on PLP/PLS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Method</b>       | Literature searches were carried out using 18 databases (inception - February 2013). Reporting quality and risk of bias of controlled studies were assessed by independent reviewers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Results</b>      | In <b>two controlled studies</b> , acupuncture significantly improved pain compared with usual care (visual analogue scale $0.17 \pm 0.804$ vs. $1.82 \pm 1.919$ , $p < 0.05$ ; visual rating scale $1.45 \pm 1.52$ vs. $1.81 \pm 2.22$ , $p$ : not reported); two studies using TENS showed significant improvement in pain compared with sham TENS (pain rating index total $F(1.31) = 7.48$ , $p < 0.01$ ; pain complain 0/12 vs. 7/12). One study showed better pain relief with TENS stimulation at stumps than stimulation on contralateral side. The reporting quality and methodological quality of controlled studies are critically discussed. |
| <b>Conclusion</b>   | There is some evidence for the use of acupuncture and TENS for the treatment of PLP/PLS but insufficient high quality evidence is available. No studies evaluated cost effectiveness or adverse effects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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