

Condition/Study	No.	Design	Test group	Control Group	Results
Depression					
Luo et al., 1985 (191)	27:20	Randomized controlled trial	Electric acupuncture	Medication (amitriptyline)	There was a similar improvement in the two groups but far fewer side-effects in the test group.
Luo et al., 1988 (192)	133:108	Multicentre, randomized controlled trial	Electric acupuncture	Medication (amitriptyline)	There was a similar improvement in the two groups but a greater effect on anxiety and fewer side-effects in the test group.
Yang et al., 1994 (193)	20:20	Randomized controlled trial	Acupuncture	Medication (amitriptyline)	There was a similar improvement in the two groups after 6 weeks.
Luo et al., 1998 (254)	29	Randomized controlled trial	Electric acupuncture plus placebo	Electric acupuncture plus amitriptyline	The therapeutic efficacy was similar in the two groups for depressive disorders. The therapeutic effect for anxiety somatization and cognitive process disturbance was greater and there were fewer side-effects in the test group.
Depression after stroke					
Li et al., 1994 (190)	34:34:33	Randomized controlled trial	"Antidepressive" acupuncture (different selection of points)	Medication (doxepin) plus traditional acupuncture or traditional acupuncture alone	There was a similar improvement in the anti-depressive acupuncture and medication plus traditional acupuncture groups; improvement was superior to that in traditional acupuncture group.
Hou et al., 1996 (189)	30:30	Randomized controlled trial with independent assessment	Electric acupuncture at <i>bǎihui</i> (GV20) and <i>yintang</i> (EX-HN3)	Traditional manual acupuncture	The results were better in the test group; the difference was significant as assessed by the Hamilton and other scoring methods.
Depressive neurosis					
Zhang, 1996 (194)	31 per group	Randomized controlled trial	Laser acupuncture	Conventional antidepressant (doxepin, amitriptyline or aprazolam)	The therapeutic effect was similar in the two groups, somewhat better in the test group for cognitive disturbance. Side-effects occurred in all cases in control group but in none in test group.