**Appendix: Detailed search strategy**

**PubMed:**

1. “Basal Ganglia Cerebrovascular Disease”[MeSH Terms] OR “Brain Ischemia”[MeSH Terms] OR “Cerebrovascular Trauma”[MeSH Terms] OR “Intracranial Arterial Diseases”[MeSH Terms] OR “Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis”[MeSH Terms] OR “Intracranial Hemorrhages”[MeSH Terms] OR “Brain Infarction”[MeSH Terms]
2. stroke[Text Word] OR “post stroke”[Text Word] OR poststroke[Text Word] OR “post-stroke”[Text Word] OR apoplex\*[Text Word] OR cerebrovasc\*[Text Word] OR “cerebral vasc\*”[Text Word] OR “brain vasc\*”[Text Word] OR “Cerebrovascular Disorders”[Text Word]
3. OR/1-2
4. aphasia[MeSH Terms]
5. aphasi\*[Text Word] OR dysphasi\*[Text Word] OR anomia[Text Word]
6. (language[Text Word] OR speech[Text Word] OR linguistic\*[Text Word]) AND (problem\*[Text Word] OR impair\*[Text Word] OR disorder\*[Text Word] OR dysfunction\*[Text Word])
7. OR/ 4-6
8. acupuncture therapy[MeSH Terms]
9. acupuncture[Text Word] OR meridians[Text Word] OR electroacupuncture[Text Word] OR electro-acupuncture[Text Word] OR acupunctur\*[Text Word] OR acupoints[Text Word]
10. (meridian[Text Word] OR non-meridian[Text Word] OR trigger[Text Word]) AND point\*[Text Word]
11. OR/8-10
12. “controlled clinical trial”[Publication Type] OR “randomized controlled trial”[Publication Type]
13. randomized[Text Word] OR randomly[Text Word] OR placebo[Text Word] OR trial[Text Word]
14. “clinical trials as topic”[MeSH Terms]
15. OR/12-14
16. Animals[MeSH Terms] NOT humans[MeSH Terms]
17. 15 NOT 16
18. 3 AND 7 AND 11 AND 17

**Embase:**

1. (‘Basal Ganglia Cerebrovascular Disease’ OR ‘Brain Ischemia’ OR ‘Cerebrovascular Trauma’ OR ‘Intracranial Arterial Diseases’ OR ‘Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis’ OR ‘Intracranial Hemorrhages’ OR ‘Brain Infarction’)/exp
2. stroke OR ‘post stroke’ OR poststroke OR ‘post-stroke’ OR apoplex\* OR cerebrovasc\* OR ‘cerebral vasc\*’ OR ‘brain vasc\*’ OR ‘Cerebrovascular Disorders’
3. OR/1-2
4. aphasia/exp
5. ‘aphasi\*’ OR ‘dysphasi\*’ OR anomia
6. (language OR speech OR ‘linguistic\*’) AND (‘problem\*’ OR ‘impair\*’ OR ‘disorder\*’ OR ‘dysfunction\*’)
7. OR/ 4-6
8. ‘acupuncture therapy’/exp
9. acupuncture OR meridians OR electroacupuncture OR ‘electro-acupuncture’ OR ‘acupunctur\*’ OR acupoints
10. (meridian OR ‘non-meridian’ OR trigger) AND ‘point\*’
11. OR/8-10
12. ‘clinical trials as topic’/exp
13. randomized OR randomly OR placebo OR controlled OR clinical OR trial
14. OR/12-13
15. 3 AND 7 AND 11 AND 14

**Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials:**

1. MeSH descriptor: [“Basal Ganglia Cerebrovascular Disease” OR “Brain Ischemia” OR “Cerebrovascular Trauma” OR “Intracranial Arterial Diseases” OR “Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis” OR “Intracranial Hemorrhages” OR “Brain Infarction”] explode all trees
2. (stroke OR “post stroke” OR poststroke OR “post-stroke” OR apoplex\* OR cerebrovasc\* OR “cerebral vasc\*” OR “brain vasc\*” OR “Cerebrovascular Disorders”):ti,ab,kw
3. OR/1-2
4. MeSH descriptor: [aphasia] explode all trees
5. (aphasi\* OR dysphasi\* OR anomia):ti,ab,kw
6. (language OR speech OR linguistic\*):ti,ab,kw AND (problem\* OR impair\* OR disorder\* OR dysfunction\*):ti,ab,kw
7. OR/ 4-6
8. MeSH descriptor: [acupuncture therapy] explode all trees
9. (Acupuncture OR meridians OR electroacupuncture OR electro-acupuncture OR acupunctur\* OR acupoints):ti,ab,kw
10. (meridian OR non-meridian OR trigger):ti,ab,kw AND (point\*):ti,ab,kw
11. OR/8-10
12. (controlled clinical trial):pt OR (randomized controlled trial):pt
13. (randomized OR randomly OR controlled OR placebo OR trial):ti,ab,kw
14. MeSH descriptor: [clinical trials as topic] explode all trees
15. OR/12-14
16. 3 AND 7 AND 11 AND 15

**Web of Science Core Collection:**

1. TS=(“Basal Ganglia Cerebrovascular Disease” OR “Brain Ischemia” OR “Cerebrovascular Trauma” OR “Intracranial Arterial Diseases” OR “Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis” OR “Intracranial Hemorrhages” OR “Brain Infarction” OR stroke OR “post stroke” OR poststroke OR “post-stroke” OR apoplex\* OR cerebrovasc\* OR “cerebral vasc\*” OR “brain vasc\*” OR “Cerebrovascular Disorders”)
2. TS=(aphasia OR aphasi\* OR dysphasi\* OR anomia)
3. TS=(language OR speech OR linguistic\*) AND TS=(problem\* OR impair\* OR disorder\* OR dysfunction\*)
4. OR/ 2-3
5. TS=(acupuncture OR meridians OR electroacupuncture OR electro-acupuncture OR acupunctur\* OR acupoints)
6. TS=(meridian OR non-meridian OR trigger) AND TS=(point\*)
7. OR/5-6
8. TS=(“controlled clinical trial” OR “randomized controlled trial” OR randomized OR randomly OR controlled OR placebo OR trial)
9. 1 AND 4 AND 7 AND 8

**China National Knowledge Infrastructure database:**

1. (SU=脑血管疾病 OR SU=脑血管障碍 OR SU=脑血管创伤OR SU=脑缺血OR SU=脑梗塞OR SU=脑梗死 OR SU=脑卒中OR SU=脑中风 OR SU=梗塞 OR SU=梗死 OR SU=卒中 OR SU=中风OR SU=颅内动脉疾病OR SU=颅内出血)
2. (SU=失语 OR SU=失语症OR SU=语言OR SU=言语OR SU=语言障碍OR SU=言语障碍OR SU=语言功能障碍OR SU=言语功能障碍)
3. (SU=针刺 OR SU=电针 OR SU=头针 OR SU=耳针 OR SU=手针 OR SU=舌针 OR SU=体针 OR SU=针 OR SU=针灸)
4. 1 AND 2 AND 3

**Wanfang Digital Periodicals database:**

1. (主题=脑血管疾病 OR 主题=脑血管障碍 OR 主题=脑血管创伤OR 主题=脑缺血OR 主题=脑梗塞OR 主题=脑梗死 OR 主题=脑卒中OR 主题=脑中风 OR 主题=梗塞 OR 主题=梗死 OR 主题=卒中 OR 主题=中风OR 主题=颅内动脉疾病OR 主题=颅内出血)
2. (主题=失语 OR 主题=失语症OR 主题=语言OR 主题=言语OR 主题=语言障碍OR 主题=言语障碍OR 主题=语言功能障碍OR 主题=言语功能障碍)
3. (主题=针刺 OR 主题=电针 OR 主题=头针 OR 主题=耳针 OR 主题=手针 OR 主题=舌针 OR 主题=体针 OR 主题=针 OR 主题=针灸)
4. 1 AND 2 AND 3

**Chinese Science and Technology Periodicals database:**

1. U=(脑血管疾病 OR 脑血管障碍 OR 脑血管创伤OR 脑缺血OR 脑梗塞OR 脑梗死 OR 脑卒中OR 脑中风 OR 梗塞 OR 梗死 OR 卒中 OR 中风OR 颅内动脉疾病OR 颅内出血)
2. U=(失语 OR 失语症OR 语言OR 言语OR 语言障碍OR 言语障碍OR 语言功能障碍OR 言语功能障碍)
3. U=(针刺 OR 电针 OR 头针 OR 耳针 OR 手针 OR 舌针 OR 体针 OR 针 OR 针灸)
4. 1 AND 2 AND 3