Appendix

Reference lists of included studies and of the previously mentioned systematic review by Ernst & Pittler 1 were screened for further trials. Duplicates were eliminated. In case of conflicting decisions regarding selection and evaluation of studies, a joint consensus was reached.

The search string comprised a combination of key words (MeSH) and free-text terms. The search expression comprised three subexpressions:

**PubMed:**dent\*[Title/Abstract] OR oral[Title/Abstract] OR maxillofacial[Title/Abstract] OR tooth[Title/Abstract] OR teeth[Title/Abstract] OR mouth[Title/Abstract] OR odont\*[Title/Abstract] pain\*[Title/Abstract] OR ache[Title/Abstract] OR aching[Title/Abstract] OR hurt\*[Title/Abstract] OR suffer\*[Title/Abstract]acupunct\*[Title/Abstract] OR stylostixis[Title/Abstract] OR "needle punction"[Title/Abstract] OR "needle treatment"[Title/Abstract] OR needl\*[Title/Abstract]"anaesthe\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "anestheste\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "articain\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "prilocain\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "lidocain\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "mepivacain\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "bupivacain\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "painkill\*"[Title/Abstract] OR "analgesic\*"[Title/Abstract]

- sections joined together using the Boolean operator AND

**Web of Science**TI=(dent\* OR oral OR maxillofacial OR tooth OR teeth OR mouth OR odont\*) AB=(dent\* OR oral OR maxillofacial OR tooth OR teeth OR mouth OR odont\*) TI=(pain\* OR ache OR aching OR hurt\* OR suffer\*)AB=(pain\* OR ache OR aching OR hurt\* OR suffer\*) TI=(acupunct\* OR stylostixis OR "needle punction" OR "needle treatment" OR needl\*) AB=(acupunct\* OR stylostixis OR "needle punction" OR "needle treatment" OR needl\*)TI=(anaesthe\* OR anestheste\* OR articain\* OR prilocain\* OR lidocain\* OR mepivacain\* OR bupivacain\* OR painkill\* OR analgesic\*) AB=(anaesthe\* OR anestheste\* OR articain\* OR prilocain\* OR lidocain\* OR mepivacain\* OR bupivacain\* OR painkill\* OR analgesic\*)  
- Title & abstract each combined with the Boolean operator OR, sections then joined together using the Boolean operator AND

**Cochrane Library**(dent\* OR oral OR maxillofacial OR tooth OR teeth OR mouth OR odont\*):ti,ab,kw AND (pain\* OR ache OR aching OR hurt\* OR suffer\*):ti,ab,kw AND (acupunct\* OR stylostixis OR "needle punction" OR "needle treatment" OR needl\*):ti,ab,kw AND (anaesthe\* OR anestheste\* OR articain\* OR prilocain\* OR lidocain\* OR mepivacain\* OR bupivacain\* OR painkill\* OR analgesic\*):ti,ab,kw

* PubMed: 311 Hits
* Web of Science: 731 Hits
* Cochrane: 630 Hits

1. Ernst E, Pittler MH. The effectiveness of acupuncture in treating acute dental pain: a systematic review. Br Dent J [Internet]. 1998 May 9;184(9):443–7. Available from: http://www.nature.com/articles/4809654