

Summary of findings:

Cupping Therapy compared to placebo for chronic musculoskeletal pain

**Patient or population:** chronic musculoskeletal pain  
**Setting:**  
**Intervention:** Cupping Therapy  
**Comparison:** placebo

Outcomes	Anticipated absolute effects* (95% CI)		Relative effect (95% CI)	N <sub>o</sub> of participants (studies)	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Comments
	Risk with placebo	Risk with Cupping Therapy				
pain intensity	-	SMD <b>1.17 lower</b> (1.93 lower to 0.42 lower)	-	656 (10 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate <sup>a</sup>	
mental health	-	SMD <b>0.12 higher</b> (0.07 lower to 0.3 higher)	-	446 (7 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ High	
functional disability	-	SMD <b>0.24 lower</b> (0.93 lower to 0.46 higher)	-	596 (9 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕○ Moderate <sup>b</sup>	

\*The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: confidence interval; SMD: standardised mean difference

**GRADE Working Group grades of evidence**  
**High certainty:** we are very confident that the true effect lies close to that of the estimate of the effect.  
**Moderate certainty:** we are moderately confident in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be close to the estimate of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.  
**Low certainty:** our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect may be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.  
**Very low certainty:** we have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is likely to be substantially different from the estimate of effect.

Explanations

- a. I<sup>2</sup> = 94%
- b. I<sup>2</sup> = 93%