

Supplementary Table S1. Five chatbots and three subscribed versions evaluated in this study

Chatbot	Developer (Location)	Free/Subscribed	Model Name	Previous Name
ChatGPT	OpenAI (California, USA)	Free	GPT-4o mini	ChatGPT 3.5
ChatGPT	OpenAI (California, USA)	Subscribed	GPT-4o	ChatGPT 4.0
Claude	Anthropic (California, USA)	Free	Claude 3.5 Sonnet	Claude Sonnet
Claude	Anthropic (California, USA)	Subscribed	Claude 3 Opus	Claude Opus
Copilot	Microsoft (Washington, USA)	Free	Copilot	–
Gemini	Google (California, USA)	Free	Gemini	–
Perplexity	Perplexity AI (California, USA)	Free	Perplexity	–
Perplexity	Perplexity AI (California, USA)	Subscribed	Perplexity Pro	–

5	The skin flora and the environment are the commonest source of pyogenic bacteria transmitted by acupuncture.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
6	The incubation period for pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture is usually more than a week.	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
7	Cases of pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture have been reported from Asia, Europe, America and Australia.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
8	Localized pyogenic infections transmitted by acupuncture are usually meridian- and acupuncture point-specific lesions.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
9	About 30% of patients with pyogenic infections transmitted by acupuncture had musculoskeletal and/or skin infections usually in the form of	F	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T

	abscesses or septic arthritis.									
10	Surgical intervention was not an important means of treatment for pyogenic infections transmitted by acupuncture.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F
11	Confirmation of the source of an outbreak due to pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture could be achieved through molecular typing.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
12	Most cases of pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture were reported from China.	F	T	T	T	F	T	F	T	F
13	An outbreak of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infections transmitted by acupuncture has been reported in Australia in 2008.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
14	No methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infection transmitted	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F

	by acupuncture has never been reported.									
21	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> sequence type ST402 is associated with acupuncture transmitted infections.	F	T	T	T	F	T	T	T	T
22	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strains transmitted by acupuncture are more virulent than <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strains transmitted through other routes.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F
23	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strains transmitted by acupuncture are more resistant to antibiotics than <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> strains transmitted through other routes.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F
24	Most strains of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> transmitted by acupuncture contain the Panton-Valentine Leukocidin toxin.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	T
25	Penicillin is the antibiotic of choice for <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F

	infections transmitted by acupuncture.									
<i>Mycobacterial infections</i>										
26	The first case of mycobacterial infection transmitted by acupuncture was reported in 2001.	T	F	T	T	F	T	F	F	F
27	The first case of mycobacterial infection transmitted by acupuncture was due to <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> .	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
28	The first case of mycobacterial infection transmitted by acupuncture was due to <i>Mycobacterium marinum</i> .	F	T	T	F	T	F	F	F	F
29	At least three outbreaks of non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture have been reported from Korea.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
30	At least five outbreaks of non-tuberculous mycobacterial	F	F	F	T	F	T	F	F	F

	infections transmitted by acupuncture is often delayed compared to pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture.									
39	Acupuncture-associated non-tuberculous mycobacteriosis are usually associated with a longer incubation period compared to pyogenic bacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
40	The median incubation period for acupuncture-associated non-tuberculous mycobacteriosis is around six days.	F	T	F	F	F	T	F	F	F
41	Many patients with non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture suffer from indolent skin and soft tissue infections.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
42	The reported cases of acupuncture associated non-tuberculous	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F

	mycobacteriosis were only caused by rapid growers.									
43	Granulomatous inflammation, caseous necrosis and epithelioid and multinucleated giant cells are common histological features in cases of mycobacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
44	Surgical treatment is not useful for mycobacterial infections transmitted by acupuncture.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F
45	Acupuncture transmitted tuberculosis has never been reported.	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F
46	Needle reuse is not an important risk factor for acupuncture transmitted mycobacterial infections.	T	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
47	At least 1% of non-tuberculous mycobacterial	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F

52	Hepatitis B virus infection transmitted by acupuncture usually presented as outbreaks.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	F
53	Theoretically, all bloodborne viruses can be potentially transmitted by acupuncture.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
54	All cases of acupuncture associated bloodborne virus infections were due to transmission of the virus from one acupuncture patient who carried the virus to another.	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F
55	Human immunodeficiency virus infection has been documented to be transmitted by acupuncture.	F	T	T	F	T	T	F	T	T
56	It has been documented that hepatitis B virus has been transmitted from the acupuncturist to the patient receiving acupuncture treatment.	T	T	T	F	T	T	T	T	T

	by acupuncture, since hepatitis C virus infections are almost always asymptomatic in the acute phase, it is difficult to ascertain that acupuncture as the definite route of transmission of the virus.									
62	Improperly sterilized or unsterilized reusable acupuncture needles were not the most important reason for acupuncture transmitted hepatitis B virus infection.	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
63	Most evidence for the association of hepatitis C virus infection with acupuncture came from epidemiological and case control studies.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
64	Hepatitis C virus infection transmitted by acupuncture usually presented as outbreaks.	F	F	T	F	F	T	F	F	F
65	Human immunodeficiency virus infection	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F

	transmitted by acupuncture usually presented as outbreaks.									
66	Needle reuse is an important risk factor for acupuncture transmitted viral infections.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
67	In one of the outbreaks of hepatitis B virus infection transmitted by acupuncture, the source was traced to the HBsAg and HBeAg positive acupuncturist.	T	T	T	F	T	T	T	T	T
68	In one of the outbreaks of hepatitis C virus infection transmitted by acupuncture, the source was traced to the hepatitis C RNA positive acupuncturist.	F	T	T	F	F	T	F	F	F
69	In one of the outbreaks of human immunodeficiency virus infection transmitted by acupuncture, the source was traced to the HIV antibody positive acupuncturist.	F	F	F	F	F	T	F	F	F

	eat or drink within two hours after the acupuncture session.									
90	To prevent acupuncture transmitted infections, the acupuncturist should disinfect his/her hands before performing acupuncture.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
91	To prevent acupuncture transmitted infections, the patient should monitor his/her body temperature for around three days after each acupuncture session.	F	F	F	T	F	T	F	F	F
92	To prevent acupuncture transmitted infections, 70-90% alcohol is a reasonable choice for skin disinfection of the patient.	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
93	To prevent acupuncture transmitted infections, the skin disinfectant should not be topped up.	T	T	T	F	T	F	T	T	T

	transmitted infections, the acupuncture clinic should be regularly cleaned and disinfected.									
100	To prevent acupuncture transmitted infections, moxibustion should not be carried out in the acupuncture clinic.	F	F	F	T	F	T	F	F	F

Supplementary Table S3. Computer and networking for runtime calculation.

Computer and Networking Items	Specifications
<i>Computer</i>	
Model	ProArt Studiobook 16 OLED (H7604, ASUS, Taiwan)
Processor	Intel Core i9-13980HX (24 GHz)
Memory	32 GB RAM
Graphics card	NVIDIA RTX 4070 GPU
<i>Networking</i>	
Internet source	iPhone 14 hotspot
Network band	4 GHz
Maximum network speed	Up to 61 Mbps
Upload speed	6.47 Mbps
Download speed	46.2 Mbps
Speed test tool	Speedtest by Ookla