

A Scoping Review of the Evidence for Efficacy of Acupuncture in Companion Animals

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Introduction

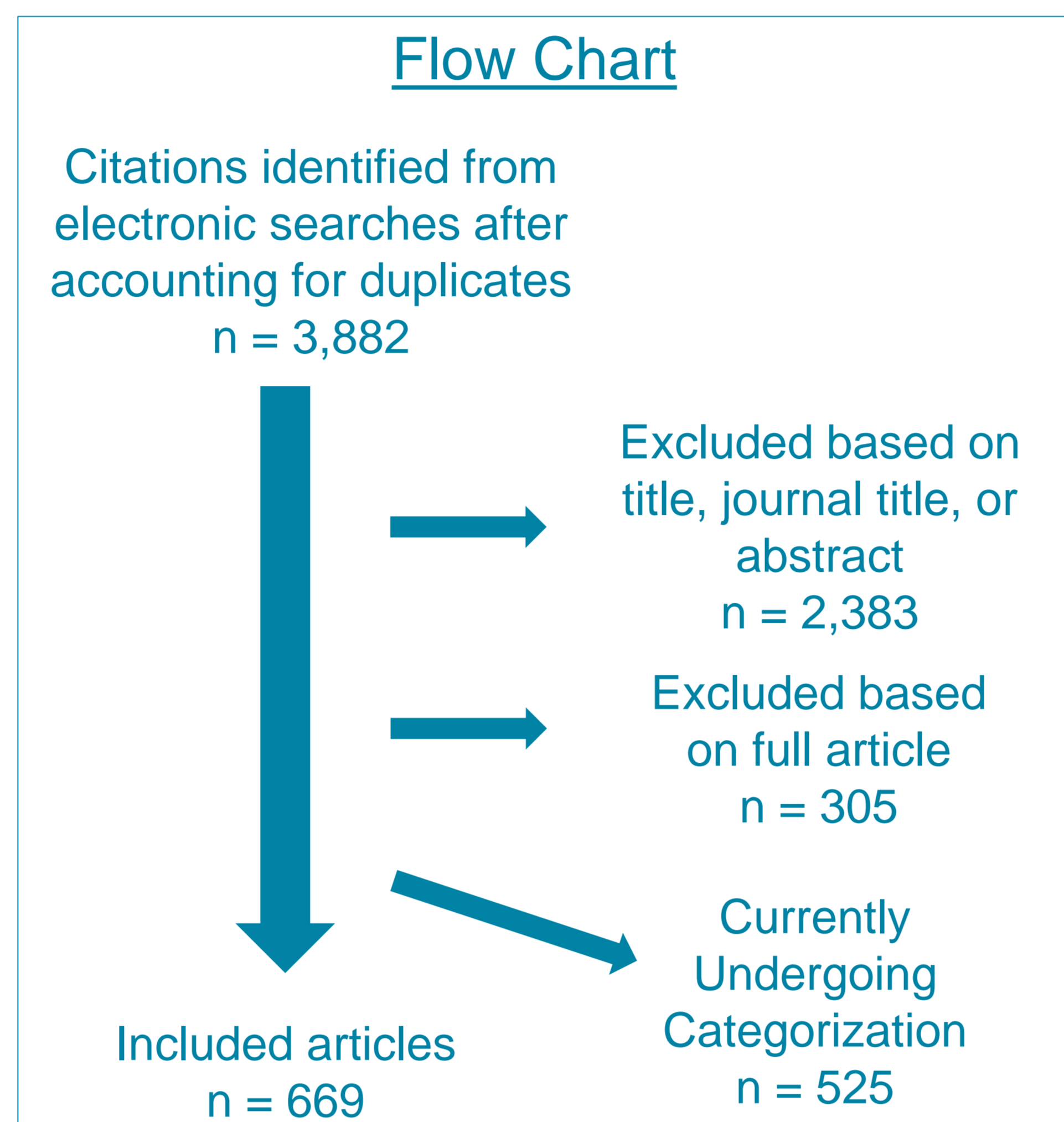
- Acupuncture is a popular alternative or complementary therapy to conventional practises.
- In the veterinary community, the efficacy of acupuncture is a controversial subject.
- Previous systematic reviews have been unable to draw conclusions about the efficacy of veterinary acupuncture due to the nature of the data – predominantly case reports and editorials with few clinical trials.
- We have undertaken a scoping review to summarize and categorize evidence related to the efficacy of veterinary acupuncture in companion animals.
- Acupuncture is recommended for a broad spectrum of conditions, and several types of acupuncture may be employed. This scoping review will provide a general summary of the literature on veterinary acupuncture.
- Can be used to identify specific applications where sufficient information exists to conduct a systematic review

Methods

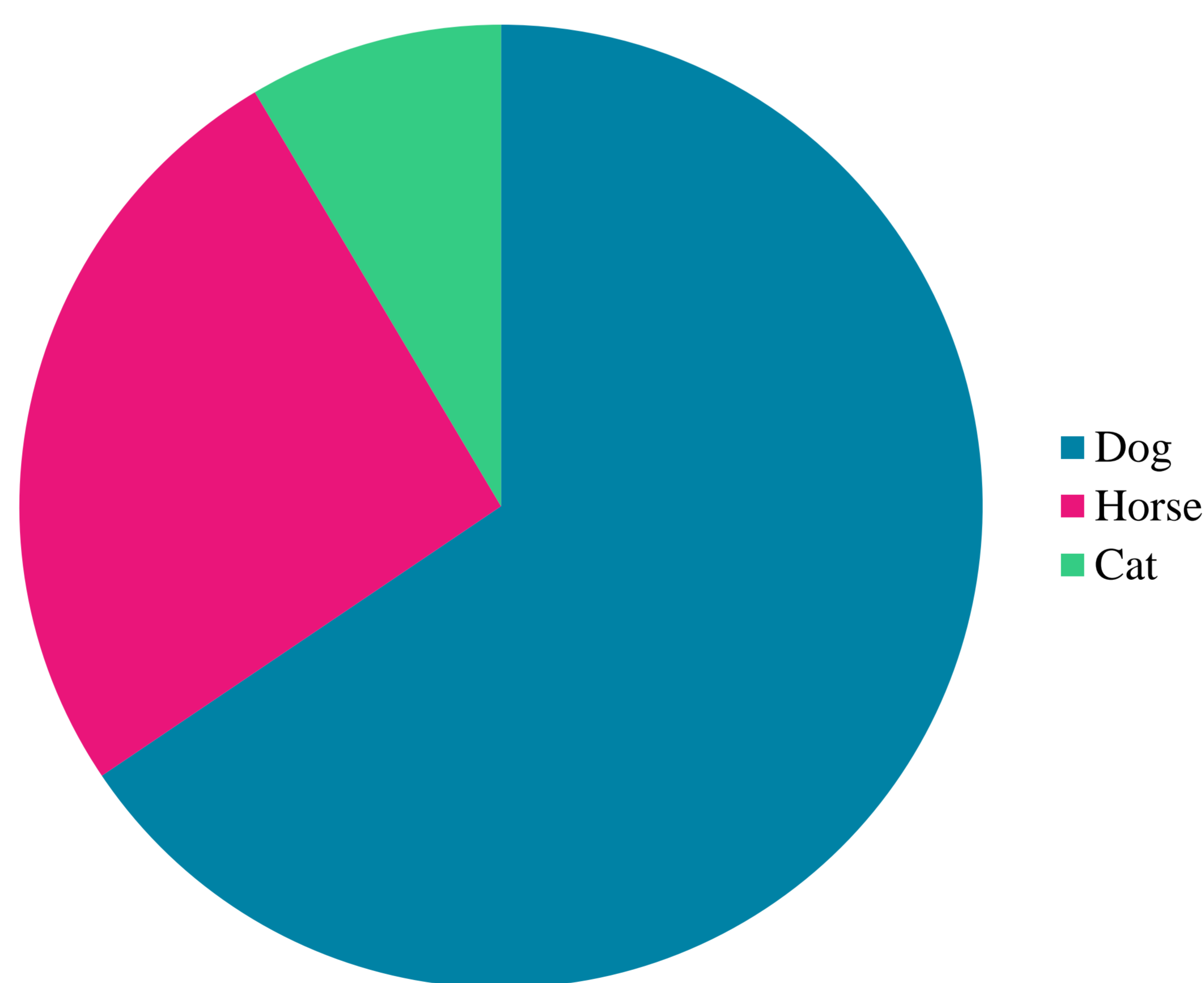
Identify the Literature → Relevance Screening → Categorization

- CAB Direct, Pub Med, AGRICOLA, CINAHL, TOXNET, Science.gov and Web of Science were searched using standardized search terms
- Relevance screening was done by two independent reviewers based on title, journal title, and abstract. Any conflicts were resolved.
- Two inclusion criteria were used:
 - Does the article address acupuncture as a therapeutic or preventive intervention?
 - Does the article mention a dog, cat or horse with the outcome measured in live animals?
- Full articles were retrieved for listings deemed relevant
- Categorization was done by two independent reviewers using a Microsoft Access database
- Results were then categorized by condition, species, and publication type

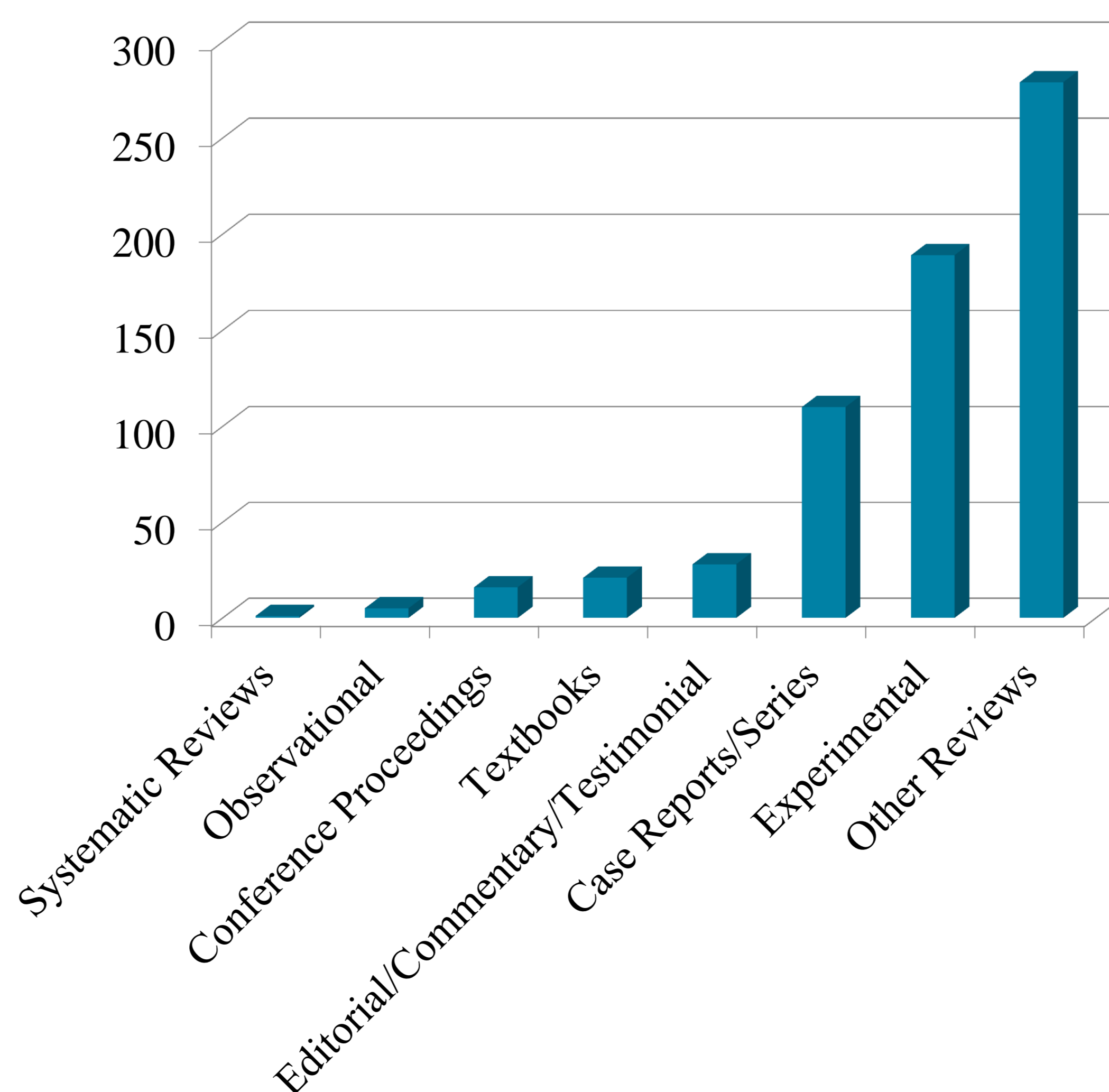
Preliminary Results



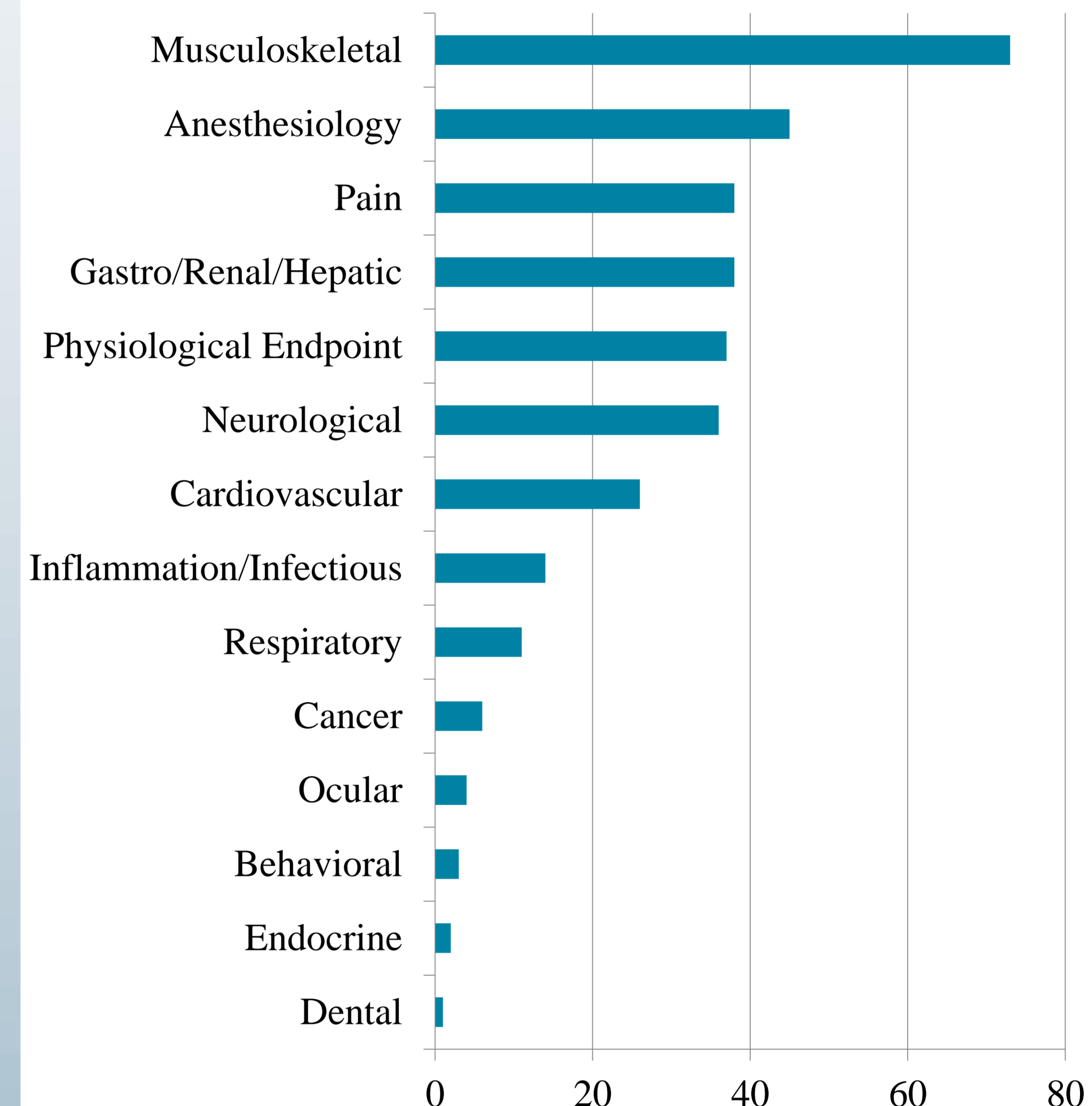
Articles Categorized by Species



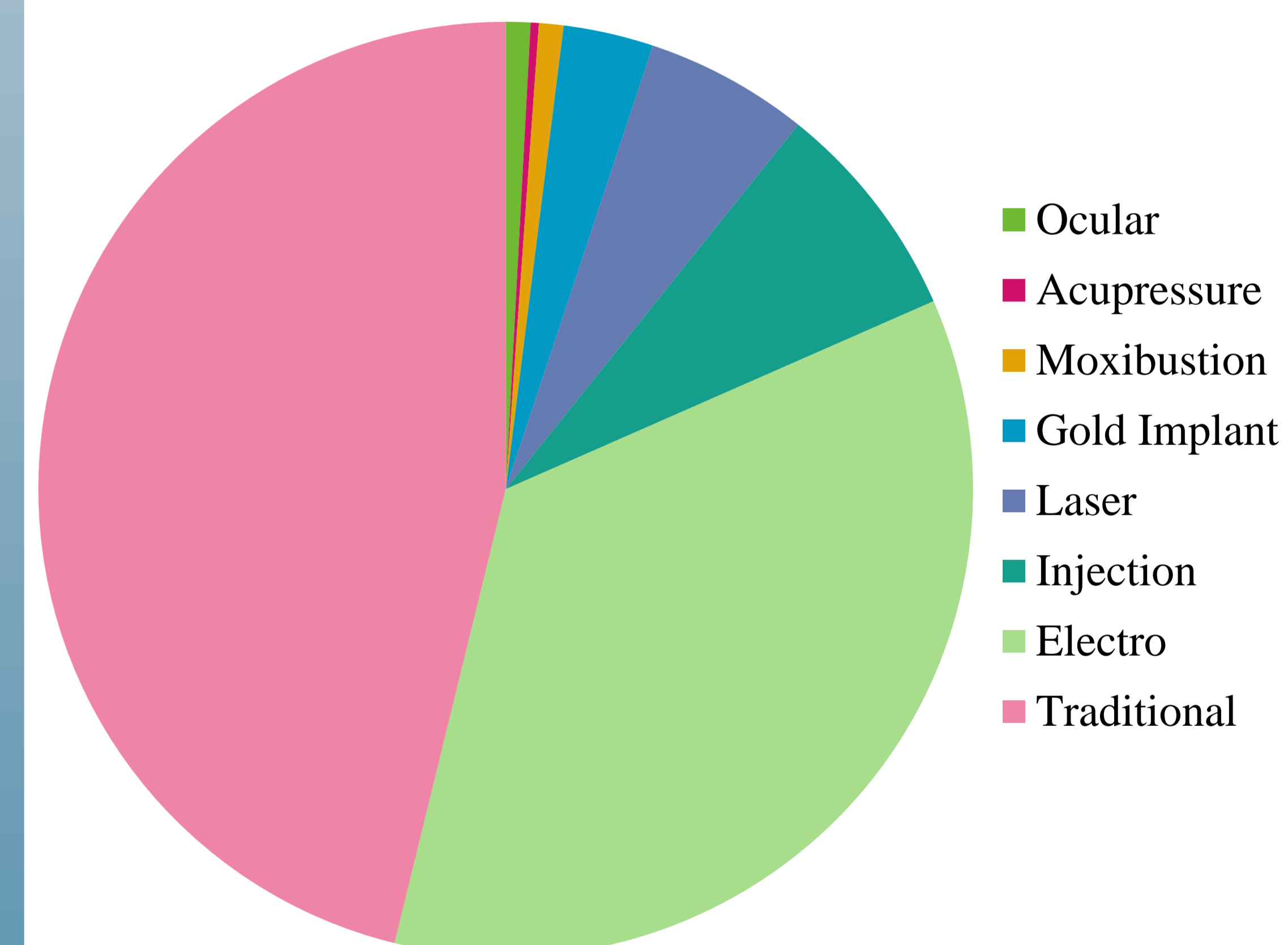
Articles Categorized by Publication Type



Endpoints Measured for Case Reports/Series, Experimental Studies, and Hypothesis Testing Observational Studies



Types of Acupuncture Employed



Discussion

- More reviews than experimental studies
- Traditional acupuncture was most commonly studied as a treatment for musculoskeletal disorders
- Subsequent systematic reviews could be conducted examining traditional acupuncture for musculoskeletal conditions

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