

Appendix 1: Search strategy

1 CENTRAL, the Cochrane Library search strategy

- #1 MeSH descriptor: [Analgesia, Epidural] explode all trees
- #2 MeSH descriptor: [Anesthetics, Local] explode all trees
- #3 ((epidural or local) near (analg* or an?esth*)):ti,ab
- #4 MeSH descriptor: [Analgesics, Opioid] explode all trees
- #5 ((systemic or epidural) near opioid*):ti,ab
- #6 (#1 or #2 or #3) and (#4 or #5)
- #7 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Period] explode all trees
- #8 MeSH descriptor: [Pain, Postoperative] explode all trees
- #9 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Care] explode all trees
- #10 MeSH descriptor: [Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting] explode all trees
- #11 ((gastrointestinal near (transit or paralysis)) or (post?operative near (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)))
- #12 #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11
- #13 #6 and #12

2 MEDLINE (Ovid SP) search strategy

- 1. (Analgesia, Epidural/ or Anesthetics, Local/ or ((epidural or local) adj4 (analg* or an?esth*)):ti,ab.) and (Analgesics, Opioid/ or ((systemic or epidural) adj4 opioid*):ti,ab.)
- 2. Postoperative Period/ or Pain, Postoperative/ or Postoperative Care/ or "Postoperative Nausea and Vomiting"/ or (gastrointestinal adj3 (transit or paralysis)):ti,ab. or (post?operative adj3 (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)):ti,ab.
- 3. ((randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt. or randomized.ab. or placebo.ab. or clinical trials as topic.sh. or randomly.ab. or trial.ti.) not (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.
- 4. 1 and 2 and 3

3 EMBASE search strategy

- 1. (epidural anesthesia/ or local anesthetic agent/ or ((epidural or local) adj4 (analg* or an?esth*)):ti,ab.) and (narcotic analgesic agent/ or ((systemic or epidural) adj4 opioid*):ti,ab.)
- 2. postoperative period/ or postoperative pain/ or postoperative care/ or postoperative nausea/ or postoperative vomiting/ or (gastrointestinal adj3 (transit or paralysis)):ti,ab. or (post?operative adj3 (abdominal surgery or nausea or vomiting or pain)):ti,ab.
- 3. (randomized-controlled-trial/ or randomization/ or controlled-study/ or multicenter-study/ or phase-3-clinical-trial/ or phase-4-clinical-trial/ or double-blind-procedure/ or single-blind-

procedure/ or (random* or cross?over* or multicenter* or factorial* or placebo* or
volunteer*).mp. or ((singl* or doubl* or trebl* or tripl*) adj3 (blind* or mask*)).ti,ab. or (latin
adj square).mp.) not (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.

4. 1 and 2 and 3