**Supplemental Digital Content: Search Strategies**

**Ovid MEDLINE search strategy**

(OVID MEDLINE from “1946 to present”, searched on August 18 2017)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search  Term Number** | **Search Term** | **Hits** |
| 1 | (dexamethasone or glucocorticoid\* or steroid\*).mp. or exp Dexamethasone/ or exp Steroids/ | 1057035 |
| 2 | exp Anesthesia, Caudal/ | 933 |
| 3 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | (caudal adj2 (block\* or nerve block\* or an?esthesia or injection or analgesia)).mp. | | 1805 |
| 4 | (animal$ not (human$ and animal$)).sh,hw. | 4484209 |
| 5 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | (book or conference paper or editorial or letter or review).pt. not exp randomized controlled trial/ | | 3756286 |
| 6 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | (random sampl$ or random digit$ or random effect$ or random survey or random regression).ti,ab. not exp randomized controlled trial/ | | 70599 |
| 7 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | exp randomized controlled trial/ or (random$ or placebo$ or single blind$ or double blind$ or triple blind$).ti,ab. | | 1164841 |
| 8 | 7 not (6 or 5 or 4) | 876077 |
| 9 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 2 or 3 | | 1805 |
| 10 | 1 and 9 | 115 |
| 11 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 10 and 8 | | 45 |

**Ovid EMBASE search strategy**

(Database: Ovid EMBASE Classic + EMBASE from inception to August 17 2017 searched on August 18 2017)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search Term Number** | **Search Term** | **Hits** |
| 1 | exp dexamethasone/ | 135191 |
| 2 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | dexamethasone.mp. | | 148147 |
| 3 | exp caudal anesthesia/ | 1811 |
| 4 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | (caudal adj2 (block\* or nerve block\* or an?esthesia or injection or analgesia)).mp. | | 2805 |
| 5 | (animal$ not (human$ and animal$)).sh,hw. | 4305703 |
| 6 | (book or conference paper or editorial or letter or review).pt. not exp randomized controlled trial/ | 4544075 |
| 7 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | (random sampl$ or random digit$ or random effect$ or random survey or random regression).ti,ab. not exp randomized controlled trial/ | | 85493 |
| 8 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | exp randomized controlled trial/ or (random$ or placebo$ or single blind$ or double blind$ or triple blind$).ti,ab. | | 1446804 |
| 9 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 8 not (7 or 6 or 5) | | 1130421 |
| 10 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 1 or 2 | | 148147 |
| 11 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 3 or 4 | | 2805 |
| 12 | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | 8 and 10 and 11 | | 26 |

**Cochrane Library Search Strategy**

(Cochrane Issue 8 of 12 for August 2017, searched on August 18, 2017)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search Term Number** | **Search Term** | **Hits** |
| 1 | Dexamethasone [TITLE, ABSTRACT, OR KEYWORDS] |  |
| 2 | caudal [Search all text] |  |
| 3 | 1 and 2 | 16 |

**Google Scholar Search Strategy**

Searched on August 18, 2017

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Search Term Number** | **Search Term** | **Hits** |
| 1 | Dexamethasone |  |
| 2 | (caudal block) or (caudal anesthesia) or (caudal epidural block) |  |
| 3 | 1 and 2 |  |