**Supplementary Table 2:** Database search strategy in Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Search # | Query | Number of hits |
| 1 | MeSH descriptor: [Sepsis] explode all trees | 3,378 |
| 2 | MeSH descriptor: [Bacteremia] explode all trees | 813 |
| 3 | MeSH descriptor: [Bacterial Infections] explode all trees | 15,234 |
| 4 | MeSH descriptor: [Intensive Care Units] explode all trees | 3,041 |
| 5 | MeSH descriptor: [Shock, Septic] explode all trees | 497 |
| 6 | #1 or #2 or (#3 and #4) or #5 | 3,528 |
| 7 | MeSH descriptor: [Anti-Bacterial Agents] explode all trees | 10,196 |
| 8 | procalcitonin or PCT | 750 |
| 9 | #6 and #7 and #8 | 27 |
| 10 | ((sepsis or septicemia or septicemias or bacteremia or bacteremias or bacteraemia or bacteraemias or "blood poisoning" or "blood stream infection" or "blood stream infections" or "bloodstream infection" or "bloodstream infections" or "septic shock" or "endotoxic shock" or "toxic shock" or (("intensive care unit" or "intensive care units" or ICU or ICUs) and ("bacterial infection" or "bacterial infections"))) and (antibiotic or antibiotics or "antibacterial agent" or "antibacterial  agents" or "anti bacterial agent" or "anti bacterial agents" or "antimicrobial agent" or "antimicrobial agents" or "anti microbial agent" or "anti microbial agents")) and (procalcitonin or PCT) | 89 |
| 11 | 9 or 11 | 94 |

Keywords and number of hits with the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews for the literature search conducted on May 4th, 2016 (J. Hey and N. Picot): The final search strategy retrieved 94 publications for appraisal from the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews.