

SUPPLEMENT FILE 1. Search strategy

MEDLINE search strategy

Database: PubMed MEDLINE

Filters activated: Publication date from 1996/01/01 to 2018/07/01, Humans, English

#1 Search("Cerebral Microbleed*" [Title/Abstract] OR CMB [Title/Abstract] OR "cerebral microh?emor*" [Title/Abstract] OR "brain Microbleed*" [Title/Abstract] OR "brain microh?emor*" [Title/Abstract]) (331)

#2 Search(stroke* [Title/Abstract] OR "Cerebrovascular Accident*" [Title/Abstract] OR CVA* [Title/Abstract] OR Apoplexy [Title/Abstract] OR "Brain Vascular Accident*" [Title/Abstract] OR "Cerebrovascular Disorder*" [Title/Abstract] OR infarction* [Title/Abstract]) (214,430)

#3 Search(cerebral [Title/Abstract] OR brain [Title/Abstract] OR intracerebral [Title/Abstract] OR intracranial [Title/Abstract]) (449,130)

#4 Search (infarct* [Title/Abstract] OR ischaemic [Title/Abstract] OR thrombo [Title/Abstract] OR emboli [Title/Abstract] OR haemorrhage [Title/Abstract] OR hemorrhage [Title/Abstract] OR bleed [Title/Abstract]) (200,213)

#5 Search (#3 AND #4) (45,980)

#6 Search (#2 OR #5) (235,873)

#7 Search (#1 AND #6) (141)

Web of Science search strategy

Database: Web of Science

Time span from 1996 to 2018/07/01, English

#1 Search TS=(Cerebral Microbleed* OR CMB OR cerebral microh?emorr* OR brain Microbleed* OR brain microh?emorr*) (10,633)

#2 Search TS=(stroke* OR (Cerebrovascular Accident*) OR CVA* OR Apoplexy OR (Brain Vascular Accident*) OR (Cerebrovascular Disorder*) OR infarction*) (718,673)

#3 Search TS=(cerebral OR brain OR intracerebral OR intracranial)
(1,685,032)

#4 Search TS=(infarct*OR ischaemic OR thrombo OR emboli OR haemorrhage OR hemorrhage OR bleed) (398,503)

#5 Search (#3 AND #4) (100,225)

#6 Search (#2 OR #5) (780,021)

#7 Search (#1 AND #6) (2,064)

SUPPLEMENT FILE 2. Newcastle Ottawa Scale

Study	Wilson (2018)	Charidimou (2016)	Orken (2013)	Imaizumi (2013)	Takahashi (2013)	Fan (2003)	Haji (2016)
Basic design	Cohort	Cohort	Cohort	Cohort	Cohort	Cohort	Cohort
Selection							
Representativeness of the exposed cohort	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Selection of the non exposed cohort	+	+	+		+	+	+
Ascertainment of exposure	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Outcome not present at start of study	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Comparability							
Controls for most important factors.							
Intervention and controls are taken from the same cohort	++	+	+	0	0	+	+
Outcome							
Assessment of outcomes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur	+	+	+	+	0	+	+
Adequacy of follow up of cohorts	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sum of positive adjudications (+)	9	8	8	7	6	8	8