**Appendix 1: Search Strategy for Bowel Preparation**

Pubmed:

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| Set | Terms | Results |
| #1 | "Cathartics"[mesh] OR "cathartics"[pharmacological action] OR "Polyethylene Glycols"[mesh] OR "Golytely"[Supplementary Concept] OR "sodium phosphate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "magnesium citrate"[Supplementary Concept] OR "Enema"[MeSH] OR "Laxatives"[MeSH] OR "Laxatives"[pharmacological action] OR "bowel preparation"[tiab] OR cathartics[tiab] OR "polyethylene glycol"[tiab] OR "magnesium citrate"[tiab] OR golytely[tiab] OR enema[tiab] OR enemas[tiab] OR laxative[tiab] OR laxatives[tiab] OR Bisacodyl[tiab] OR dulcolax[tiab] OR "milk of magnesia"[tiab] OR ((preparation[tiab] OR preoperative[tiab] OR prophylactic[tiab] OR prophylaxis[tiab] OR "Preoperative period"[MeSH] OR "Preoperative Care"[MeSH]) AND ("Anti-bacterial agents"[MeSH] OR "Anti-bacterial agents"[pharmacological action] OR "Neomycin"[MeSH] OR "Erythromycin"[MeSH] OR "Metronidazole"[MeSH] OR antibiotics[tiab] OR antibiotic[tiab] OR neomycin[tiab] OR erythromycin[tiab] OR metronidazole[tiab])) | 145088 |
| #2 | "Rectum/surgery"[MeSH] OR "Colon/surgery"[MeSH] OR "Colectomy"[MeSH] OR "Proctocolectomy, Restorative"[MeSH] OR colectomy[tiab] OR proctocolectomy[tiab] OR "abdominoperineal resection"[tiab] OR "low anterior resection"[tiab] OR proctectomy[tiab] | 41579 |
| #3 | #1 AND #2 | 2043 |
| #4 | #3 NOT (Editorial[ptyp] OR Letter[ptyp] OR Case Reports[ptyp] OR Comment[ptyp]) NOT (animals[mh] NOT humans[mh]) AND english[la] | 1302 |

Embase:

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| Set | Terms | Results |
| #1 | 'laxative'/exp OR 'macrogol'/exp OR 'enema'/exp OR "bowel preparation":ab,ti OR cathartics:ab,ti OR "polyethylene glycol":ab,ti OR "magnesium citrate":ab,ti OR enema:ab,ti OR enemas:ab,ti OR laxative:ab,ti OR laxatives:ab,ti OR Bisacodyl:ab,ti OR dulcolax:ab,ti OR "milk of magnesia":ab,ti OR golytely:ab,ti OR ((preparation:ab,ti OR preoperative:ab,ti OR 'preoperative period'/exp OR 'preoperative care'/exp) AND ('antibiotic agent'/exp OR 'metronidazole'/exp OR antibiotics:ab,ti OR antibiotic:ab,ti OR neomycin:ab,ti OR erythromycin:ab,ti OR metronidazole:ab,ti)) | 288494 |
| #2 | 'proctocolectomy'/exp OR 'colon resection'/exp OR 'rectum abdominoperineal resection'/exp OR 'rectum resection'/exp OR colectomy:ab,ti OR proctocolectomy:ab,ti OR "abdominoperineal resection":ab,ti OR "low anterior resection":ab,ti OR proctectomy:ab,ti | 53106 |
| #3 | #1 AND #2 | 2713 |
| #4 | #3 NOT ('case report'/exp OR 'case study'/exp OR 'editorial'/exp OR 'letter'/exp OR 'note'/exp OR [conference abstract]/lim) AND [humans]/lim AND [english]/lim | 1082 |
| #5 | #4 AND [embase]/lim NOT [medline]/lim | 188 |

Cochrane:

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| Set | Terms | Results |
| #1 | [mh cathartics] OR [mh "Polyethylene Glycols"] OR [mh enema] OR [mh laxatives] | 3429 |
| #2 | "bowel preparation":ab,ti OR cathartics:ab,ti OR "polyethylene glycol":ab,ti OR "magnesium citrate":ab,ti OR enema:ab,ti OR enemas:ab,ti OR laxative:ab,ti OR laxatives:ab,ti OR Bisacodyl:ab,ti OR dulcolax:ab,ti OR "milk of magnesia":ab,ti OR golytely:ab,ti | 3035 |
| #3 | [mh "anti-bacterial agents"] OR [mh Neomycin] OR [mh Erythromycin] OR [mh Metronidazole] | 12830 |
| #4 | antibiotics:ab,ti OR antibiotic:ab,ti OR neomycin:ab,ti OR erythromycin:ab,ti OR metronidazole:ab,ti | 18615 |
| #5 | #3 OR #4 | 24628 |
| #6 | Preoperative:ab,ti OR preparation:ab,ti OR pre-operative:ab,ti OR prophylactic:ab,ti OR prophylactic:ab,ti | 49449 |
| #7 | #5 AND #6 | 4791 |
| #8 | #1 OR #2 OR #7 | 9977 |
| #9 | [mh rectum/SU] OR [mh colon/SU] OR [mh Colectomy] OR [mh "restorative proctocolectomy"] | 1442 |
| #10 | colectomy:ab,ti OR proctocolectomy:ab,ti OR "abdominoperineal resection":ab,ti OR "low anterior resection":ab,ti OR proctectomy:ab,ti | 854 |
| #11 | #9 OR #10 | 1945 |
| #12 | #11 AND #8 | 292 |

We searched PubMed, Embase, and the Cochrane Library (including the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials and the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews) using a combination of database-specific subject headings and keywords for bowel preparation and colorectal surgeries. Bowel preparations included mechanical bowel preparations, enemas, oral antibiotics, and laxatives. Exact search strategies are included as Appendix xyz. Results were not limited by date, but were limited to English language. Comments, editorials, and case reports were not included. Results were imported into EndNote and duplicates were removed.

Total – 1516 from PubMed, Embase, and Cochrane Library (with duplicates removed)