**SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE 1.** *Search strategy for central, medline, EMBASE and ISI web of science*

**Search strategy for Central**

#1 (hydroxyethyl starch or Ringer or Albumin or Dextran)

#2 (bleeding or haemorrhage or haemorrhage)

#3 (coagulation)

#4 (operation or peri?op\* or surg)

#5 (#1 AND #4 AND #2 OR #3)

**Search strategy for MEDLINE**

1 ("randomized controlled trial"[Publication Type] OR "randomized controlled trials as topic"[MeSH Terms] OR "randomized controlled trial"[All Fields] OR "randomised controlled trial"[All Fields])

2 ("hydroxyethyl starch"[MeSH Terms] OR ("hydroxyethyl"[All Fields] AND "starch"[All Fields] OR "hydroxyethyl starch"[All Fields] OR ("hydroxyethyl"[All Fields] AND "starch"[All Fields]) OR "hydroxyethyl starch"[All Fields]) OR HES [All Fields] AND ("Ringer"[MeSH Terms] OR Ringer [All Fields] AND ("Albumin"[MeSH Terms] OR Albumin [All Fields] AND

("Dextran"[MeSH Terms] OR Dextran [All Fields]

3 ("surgery"[Subheading] OR "surgery"[All Fields] OR "surgical procedures, operative"[MeSH Terms] OR ("surgical"[All Fields] AND "procedures"[All Fields] AND "operative or perioperat\* or postoperat\* or intraoperat\*"[All Fields]

4 ("bleeding as topic"[MeSH Terms] OR "bleeding "[All Fields]) OR “haemorrhage as topic” [MeSH Terms] OR "haemorrhage "[All Fields]

5 ("coagulation as topic"[MeSH Terms] OR "coagulation "[All Fields])

6 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 5

**Search strategy for EMBASE**

1 (hydroxyethyl starch or Ringer or Albumin or Dextran)

2 (operation or peri?op\* or surg)

3 (bleeding or haemorrhage or hemorrhage)

4 (coagulation)

5 3 or 4

6 (“random\*” or “trial\*”)

7 1 and 2 and 3 and 5 and 6

**Search strategy for ISI Web of Science**

#1 TS= (operation or perioperat\* or surg\*

#2 TS= (hydroxyethyl starch or Ringer or Albumin or Dextran)

#3 TS= (bleeding or haemorrhage or hemorrhage)

#4 TS= (coagulation)

#5 #1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4

#6 TS= (“random\*” or “trial\*”)

#7 #6 AND #5