**Appendix A: Search Strategy**

The following search strategy was developed for MEDLINE (Ovid) and was adapted for the other databases to be searched

1. Pain, Postoperative/

2. (postoperative adj6 pain\*) or (post-operative adj6 pain\*) or post-operative-pain\*

3. (post-operative adj6 analgesi\*) or (postoperative adj6 analgesi\*)

4. (post-surgical adj6 pain\*) or (post surgical adj6 pain\*) or (post-surgery adj6 pain\*) or (post adj surg\* adj pain\*)

5. (post\* adj pain\*) or pain relief after or pain following surg\*

6. (posttreatment adj6 pain\*) or (pain control after adj6 surg\*) or ((post-extraction or postextraction or post-surg\*) and (pain\* or discomfort))

7. (posttreatment adj6 pain\*) or (pain control after adj6 surg\*) or ((post-extraction or postextraction or post-surg\*) and (pain\* or discomfort))

8. (analgesi\* adj6 postoperat\*) or (analgesi\* adj6 post-operat\*) or (pain\* adj6 after surg\*) or (pain\* adj6 after operat\*) or (analgesi\* adj6 after operat\*)

9. (pain\* or analgesi\*) adj6 (“follow\* operat\*” or “follow\* surg\*”)

10. mastectomy or postmastectomy or post-mastectomy or hernia or herniorrhaphy

11. amputat\* or thoracotomy or pneumonectomy or lobectomy or sternotomy

12. #10 or #11

13. pain\* or discomfort or analgesi\*

14. #12 and #13

15. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 or 14

16. chronic\* or constant\* or continu\* or persist\* or longterm or long-term or longstanding or long-standing or long lasting or longlasting

or phantom

17. 15 and 16

The search above was combined with the following trial design search filter which has been developed for MEDLINE. Cochrane highly sensitive search strategy for identifying randomized trials in MEDLINE: sensitivity- and precision-maximizing version (2008 revision); Ovid format

1. randomized controlled trial.pt.

2. controlled clinical trial.pt.

3. randomized.ab.

4. placebo.ab.

5. clinical trials as topic.sh.

6. randomly.ab.

7. trial.ti.

8. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7

9. Animals.sh. not (humans.sh. and animals.sh.)

10. 8 not 9