**Supplementary Table 1:** Literature search strategy.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Medline** | **Embase** |
| **Search Set** |  |  |
| **1** | post-mortem\* or post mortem\* or postmortem\* or autops\* or necrops\* | post-mortem\* or post mortem\* or postmortem\* or autops\* or necrops\* |
| **2** | AUTOPSY | AUTOPSY |
| **3** | **Sets 1-2 combined with “or”** | **Sets 1-2 combined with “or”** |
| **4** | hiv or human immunodeficiency virus or AIDS or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or acquired immune deficiency syndrome | hiv or human immunodeficiency virus or AIDS or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or acquired immune deficiency syndrome |
| **5** | HIV | HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS |
| **6** | HIV INFECTIONS | ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME |
| **7** | **Sets 4-6 combined with “or”** | **Sets 4-6 combined with “or”** |
| **8** | TB or tuberculosis | TB or tuberculosis |
| **9** | TUBERCULOSIS | TUBERCULOSIS |
| **10** | Sets 8-9 combined with “or” | MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS |
| **11** | **Sets 3, 7 & 10 combined with “and”** | **Sets 8-10 combined with “or”** |
| **12** |  | **Sets 3, 7 & 11 combined with “and”** |

Capital letters represent MeSH terms.

**Supplementary Table 2:** Quality assessment tool

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| **QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL** |
| **Selection of study participants** | **Score** |
| Study describes that general hospital admissions were invited to participate (i.e. not restricted to speciality-specific ward admissions) | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes that *consecutive* deaths were invited to participate | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study reports (or allows calculation of) autopsy rate (subjects autopsied / total number of deaths) | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Autopsy rate0-10% (0 points) *vs.* 10-50% (0.5 points) *vs.* >50% (1 point) | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| **Total** |  |
| **Assessment** | **Score** |
| Study describes characteristics of subjects including age | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes type of autopsy performed | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes that >1 organ was autopsied | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes that full autopsy (including chest, abdomen & brain) was performed | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes method of confirming TB at autopsy | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Study describes that TB diagnosed at autopsy was confirmed by culture (in at least a subset of cases) | 0 | 0.5 | 1 |
| **Total** |  |
| **OVERALL TOTAL (out of 10)** |  |