

Appendix 1: Search Strategy

The primary search of the *British Medical Journal* was carried out through JSTOR as the only online repository to hold the journal for the dates 1914 to 1985. Ideally, *The Lancet* would have been searched through the same database, but as this title is not available through JSTOR, was instead searched using its own online archive. Full text from 1914 to 1985 was searched using the search string:

Amputate OR amputates OR amputated OR amputation OR amputations OR amputatio OR amputating OR amputee OR amputees OR "nerve damage" OR neuropraxia OR "nerve injury" OR "nerve injuries" OR "nerve trauma" OR "nerve traumas" OR neurapraxia OR axonotmesis OR neurotmesis OR causalgia OR causalgic OR neuralgia OR neuralgic OR neuroma OR "nerve bulb" OR "nerve bulbs".

The title and abstract were extracted from the results and downloaded into Endnote, where duplicates were reviewed and deleted using an in-built tool. A record was made of the number of texts deleted at this stage. The remaining search results were imported into the online platform Covidence and a second duplicate search was run before screening.

Records of each journal and database search were kept at every stage detailing the number of texts found and retrieved for each search term and journal, the total excluded after secondary screening, and the error rate found after comparing results from the three archives, in accordance with PRISMA guidelines.

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