

## Supplementary information

### Supplementary appendix 1. Search strategy.

The following strategy was used to search CENTRAL on The Cochrane Library:

```
#1 CONJUNCTIVITIS-ALLERGIC*:ME
#2 CONJUNCTIVIT*
#3 (#1 or #2)
#4 MAST-CELLS*:ME
#5 CROMOLYN-SODIUM*:ME
#6 (MAST near CELL*)
#7 MAST-CELL*
#8 ((CHROMO* or CROMO*) near SODIUM)
#9 ((CHROMO* or CROMO*) near DISODIUM)
#10 ((NEDOCHROM* or NEDOCROM*) near SODIUM)
#11 ((NEDOCHROM* or NEDOCROM*) near DISODIUM)
#12 LODOXAMIDE or OLOPATADINE
#13 (((((((#4 or #5) or #6) or #7) or #8) or #9) or #10) or #11) or #12)
#14 HISTAMINE-H1-ANTAGONISTS:ME
#15 ANTAZOLINE:ME
#16 CHLORPHENIRAMINE:ME
#17 CYCLIZINE:ME
#18 TERFENADINE*:ME
#19 (ANTIHISTAMIN* or ANTI-HISTAMIN*)
#20 ((AZELASTIN* or LEVOCABASTIN*) or EMEDASTIN*) or CHLORPHEN*)
#21 ((ACRIVASTIN* or ATIRIZIN*) or DESLORATADIN*) or FEXOFENADIN*)
#22 ((LEVOCITIRIZIN* or LORATIDIN*) or MIZOLASTIN*) or TERFEN*)
#23 (((((((#14 or #15) or #16) or #17) or #18) or #19) or #20) or #21) or #22)
#24 (#13 or #23)
#25 (#3 and #24)
```

The following strategy was used to search MEDLINE on SilverPlatter:

```
#1 "CONJUNCTIVITIS,-ALLERGIC"/ all subheadings
#2 "CONJUNCTIVITIS"/ all subheadings
#3 #2 and (PY=1966-1985)
#4 (ALLERGIC or SEASONAL or PERENNIAL or HAY?FEVER or ENVIRONMENTAL or NON?INFECTIOUS or HISTAMINE?INDUC* or CHRONIC or CHEMICAL or ACUTE) in TI,AB
#6 #4 near3 CONJUNCTIV*
#7 #1 or #3 or #6
#8 "MAST-CELLS"/ all subheadings
#9 "CROMOLYN-SODIUM"/ all subheadings
#10 "CHROMONES"/ all subheadings
#11 #10 and (PY=1966-1970)
#12 "MAST CELL" or "MAST CELLS" or MAST?CELL*
#13 (C?ROMO* or NEDOC?ROM*) near (SODIUM or DISODIUM)
#14 LODOXAMIDE or OLOPATADINE
#15 #8 or #9 or #11 or #12 or #13 or #14
#16 "HISTAMINE-H1-ANTAGONISTS"/ all subheadings
#17 "ANTAZOLINE"/ all subheadings
#18 "CHLORPHENIRAMINE"/ all subheadings
#19 "CYCLIZINE"/ all subheadings
#20 "TERFENADINE"/ all subheadings
#21 ANTI?HISTAMIN* or AZELASTIN* or LEVOCABASTIN* or EMEDASTIN* or CHLORPHENAMIN* or ACRIVASTIN* or ATIRIZIN* or DESLORATADIN* or FEXOFENADIN* or LEVOCITIRIZIN* or LORATIDIN* or MIZOLASTIN* or TERFEN?D?IN*
#22 #16 or #17 or #18 or #19 or #20 or #21
#24 #15 or #22
#25 #7 and #23
```

To identify randomised controlled trials, this search was combined with the Cochrane highly sensitive search strategy phases one and two as contained in *The Cochrane reviewer's handbook*.

The following strategy was used to search EMBASE on SilverPlatter:

```
#1 "ALLERGIC-CONJUNCTIVITIS"/ all subheadings
#2 (ALLERGIC or SEASONAL or PERENNIAL or HAY?FEVER or ENVIRONMENTAL or NON?INFECTIOUS or HISTAMINE?INDUC* or CHRONIC or CHEMICAL or ACUTE) in TI,AB
#3 #2 near3 CONJUNCTIV*
#4 #1 or #3
#5 explode "MAST-CELL"/ all subheadings
#6 "CROMOGLYCAT-Disodium"/ all subheadings
#7 "LODOXAMIDE"/ all subheadings
#8 "OLOPATADINE"/ all subheadings
#9 "MAST CELL" or "MAST CELLS" or MAST?CELL*
#10 (C?ROMO* or NEDOCROM*) near (DISODIUM or SODIUM)
#11 LODOXAMIDE or OLOPATADINE
#12 #5 or #6 or #7 or #8 or #9 or #10 or #11
#13 explode "HISTAMINE-H1-RECEPTOR-ANTAGONIST"/ all subheadings
#14 ANTI?HISTAMIN* or AZELASTIN* or LEVOCABASTIN* or EMEDASTIN* or CHLORPHENAMIN* or ACRIVASTIN* or ATIRIZIN* or DESLORATADIN* or FEXOFENADIN* or LEVOCITIRIZIN* or LORATIDIN* or MIZOLASTIN* or TERFEN?D?IN*
#15 #13 or #14
#16 #12 or #15
#17 #4 and #16
```

To identify randomised controlled trials, this search was combined with the following search:

```
#1 "RANDOMIZED-CONTROLLED-TRIAL"/ all subheadings
#2 "RANDOMIZATION"/ all subheadings
#3 "CONTROLLED-STUDY"/ all subheadings
#4 "MULTICENTER-STUDY"/ all subheadings
#5 "PHASE-3-CLINICAL-TRIAL"/ all subheadings
#6 "PHASE-4-CLINICAL-TRIAL"/ all subheadings
#7 "DOUBLE-BLIND-PROCEDURE"/ all subheadings
#8 "SINGLE-BLIND-PROCEDURE"/ all subheadings
#9 #1 or #2 or #3 or #4 or #5 or #6 or #7 or #8
#10 RANDOM* or CROSS?OVER* or FACTORIAL* or PLACEBO* or VOLUNTEER* in TI,AB
#11 (SINGL* or DOUBL* or TREBL* or TRIPL*) near (BLIND* or MASK*) in TI,AB
#12 #9 or #10 or #11
#13 HUMAN in DER
#14 (ANIMAL or NONHUMAN) in DER
#15 #13 and #14
#16 #14 not #15
#17 #12 not #16
```