

Appendix 1: Search strategy for MEDLINE

1. randomized controlled trial.pt.
2. controlled clinical trial.pt.
3. Randomized Controlled Trials/
4. Random Allocation/
5. Double-Blind Method/
6. Single-Blind Method/
7. or/1-6
8. Animal/ not Human/
9. 7 not 8
10. clinical trial.pt.
11. explode Clinical Trials/
12. (clinic\$ adj25 trial\$).tw.
13. ((singl\$ or doubl\$ or trebl\$ or tripl\$) adj(mask\$ or blind\$)).tw.
14. Placebos/
15. placebo\$.tw.
16. random\$.tw.
17. Research Design/
18. (latin adj square).tw.
19. or/10-18
20. 19 not 8
21. 20 not 9
22. Comparative Study/
23. explode Evaluation Studies/
24. Follow-Up Studies/
25. Prospective Studies/
26. (control\$ or prospectiv\$ or volunteer\$).tw.
27. Cross-Over Studies/
28. or/22-27
29. 28 not 8
30. 29 not (9 or 21)
31. 9 or 21 or 30
32. PAIN/pc, dt, rh, th [Prevention & Control, Drug Therapy, Rehabilitation, Therapy]
33. Chronic Disease/dt, pc, rh, th [Drug Therapy, Prevention & Control, Rehabilitation, Therapy]
34. (chronic adj3 pain).mp
35. Low Back Pain/
36. (low adj back adj pain).mp
37. or/ 32-36
38. exp Analgesics, opioid/
39. Codeine.mp.
40. Fentanyl.mp.
41. Hydrocodone.mp.
42. Hydromorphone.mp.
43. Levorphanol.mp.
44. Meperidine.mp.
45. Morphine.mp.
46. Oxycodone.mp.
47. Oxymorphone.mp.
48. Pentazocine.mp.
49. Propoxyphene.mp.
50. Sufentanil.mp.
51. Tramadol.mp
52. or/ 38-51
53. or/ 39-51
54. 31 and 37 and 53