

Appendix 1: Search strategies for literature review

Main search strategy (Databases: Embase <1980 to 2011 Week 44> and MEDLINE <1948 to October Week 4 2011>)

1	common bile duct stone	5 086
2	(common adj5 bile adj5 duct adj5 stone\$.tw.	5 350
3	choledocholithiasis.tw.	5 758
4	cholelithiasis.tw.	13 121
5	or/1-4	24 178
6	meta-analysis.pt.	31 444
7	meta-analysis.tw.	69 028
8	metaanalysis.tw.	2 674
9	or/6-8	83 095
10	5 and 9	62
11	remove duplicates from 10	43
12	limit 11 to humans	39
13	limit 12 to yr="1980 - 2011"	39

Search strategy used to answer the question Should routine intraoperative cholangiography be performed in patients exhibiting a low likelihood of bearing a common bile duct stone? (Databases: Embase <1980 to 2011 Week 44> and MEDLINE <1948 to October Week 4 2011>)

1	common bile duct stone	5 089
2	(common adj5 bile adj5 duct\$.ti,ab.	24 552
3	1 or 2	27 416
4	(Intraoperative adj5 cholangiography).ti,ab.	2 137
5	(operative adj5 cholangiography).ti,ab.	1 542
6	(intraoperative adj5 cholangiogram).ti,ab.	297
7	(operative adj5 cholangiogram).ti,ab.	247
8	(perioperative adj5 cholangiogram).ti,ab.	6
9	(perioperative adj5 cholangiography).ti,ab.	44
10	rendezvous.ti,ab.	581
11	or/4-10	4 570
12	3 and 11	1 744
13	remove duplicates from 12	1 054
14	limit 13 to human	934
15	letter.pt.	1 478 560
16	review.pt.	3 430 097
17	comment.pt.	458 394
18	Conference Abstract.pt.	547 461
19	or/15-18	5 610 157
20	14 not 19	852