

Appendix 1 Search strategy used for identification of studies [posted as supplied by author]

- The electronic database MEDLINE was searched for relevant trials.

The following Medical Subject Headings (MeSH terms) and words were used to search MEDLINE:

- 1) Embryo Transfer/
- 2) (single adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 3) (one adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 4) (double adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 5) (two adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 6) (eset or set or det).tw
- 7) 1 and 6
- 8) 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 7
- 9) randomized controlled trial.pt
- 10) controlled clinical trial.pt
- 11) random\$.tw
- 12) comparative study.pt
- 13) 9 or 10 or 11 or 12
- 14) 8 and 13
- 15) 2 or 3
- 16) 4 or 5
- 17) 15 and 16
- 18) 14 or 17
- 19) limit 18 to yr="1865 - 2008"

- The electronic database EMBASE was searched for relevant trials.

The following Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) terms and words were used to search EMBASE:

- 1) Embryo Transfer/
- 2) (single adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 3) (one adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 4) (double adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 5) (two adj2 embryo\$ adj2 transfer\$).tw.
- 6) (eset or set or det).tw
- 7) 1 and 6
- 8) 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 7
- 9) exp Comparative Study/
- 10) exp Controlled Study/
- 11) random\$.tw
- 12) 9 or 10 or 11
- 13) 8 and 12
- 14) 2 or 3
- 15) 4 or 5
- 16) 14 and 15
- 17) 13 or 16
- 18) limit 17 to yr="1974 – 2008"

- The following registers of trials were searched:

- 1) The Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (Clinical Trials)

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

(single or one or double or two) near embryo* near transfer

Search All Text

All of The Cochrane Library

All Record Status

Date Range 1980 - 2008

2) The Meta-Register of Controlled Trials (mRCT)

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

((single or one or double or two) and embryo% and transfer)

3) ClinicalTrials.gov

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

(single OR one OR double OR two) AND embryo AND transfer

4) The National Research Register

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

(single or one or double or two) and embryo and transfer

All Fields searched

All Record Status chosen

- a. NNR Records from Regional & National Research Programmes
- b. NNR Records from Research Centres: Lead Centres for Multi-Centre Projects
- c. NNR Records from Research Centres: Single-Centre Projects
- d. NNR Records from Research Centres: Participating Centres for Multi-Centre Projects

- Conference proceedings were searched using the following:

1) Science Citation Index

The following parameters will be used to conduct the search:

TS = ((single or one or double or two) same embryo* same transfer) AND

Document type = (Meeting Abstract OR Meeting Summary OR Meeting-Abstract)

Timespan = 1970 – 2008

Databases = SCI-Expanded

Language = All languages

2) BIOSIS Meeting Abstracts

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

TS = ((single or one or double or two) same embryo* same transfer)

DocType = Meeting OR Meeting Paper

LitType = Meeting Abstract OR Meeting Address OR Meeting Paper OR Meeting Report OR Meeting Slide OR Meeting Summary

Language = All languages

TaxaNotes = All Taxa Notes;

Database = BIOSIS Previews;

Timespan = 1985 - 2008

3) Conference Proceedings Citation Index (ISI Proceedings)

The following parameters were used to conduct the search:

TS = ((single or one or double or two) same embryo* same transfer)

DocType = All document types

Language = All languages

Database = CPCI-S Timespan=1970-2008

Timespan = 1970 to 2008

- The reference lists of reports of identified trials were searched for references to further relevant trials.
- Members of the Collaboration were formally asked if they knew of any additional trials.