

Appendix 1 Summary of search strategies used to retrieve the relevant studies [posted as supplied by author]

Search element	MEDLINE	EMBASE	Cochrane Library
Exposure	Thesaurus term exploded Shock Shock, septic Hypovolemia Multi Organ failure Hypotension +Subheading Therapy Prevention & Control	Thesaurus term exploded Shock Shock, septic Hypovolemia Multi Organ failure Hypotension +Subheading Therapy Prevention & Control	Mesh term exploded all trees Shock, septic Hypovolemia Hypotension Key word: Shock
Intervention	Thesaurus term exploded Colloids Fluid Therapy Dextrans Polygeline Hetastarch Plasma Substitutes +Subheading Administration & Dosage, Therapeutic Use, Toxicity Therapy Adverse effects	Thesaurus term exploded Colloids Fluid Therapy Dextrans Polygeline Hetastarch Plasma Substitutes +Subheading Administration & Dosage, Therapeutic Use, Toxicity Therapy Adverse effects	Mesh term exploded all trees Colloids Fluid Therapy Dextrans Polygeline Hetastarch Plasma Substitutes
Keywords (for intervention)	Albumin*, ppf, gelatin*, colloid*,gentran*, haemaccel, hemaccel, pentastarch pentaspan, gelofusine, Gelafundin, crystalloid*, ringer*, hartman*, sodium*, fluid therap*, plasma substit*, volume replace*, plasma replace*, fluid replace*, fluid restor*, fluid resusc*, fluid expansion Searched in: mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word	Albumin*, ppf, gelatin*, colloid*,gentran*, haemaccel, hemaccel, pentastarch pentaspan, gelofusine, Gelafundin, crystalloid*, ringer*, hartman*, sodium*, fluid therap*, plasma substit*, volume replace*, plasma replace*, fluid replace*, fluid restor*, fluid resusc*, fluid expansion Searched in: mp=title, original title, abstract, name of substance word, subject heading word	Albumin*, ppf, gelatin*, colloid*,gentran*, haemaccel, hemaccel, pentastarch pentaspan, gelofusine, Gelafundin, crystalloid*, ringer*, hartman*, sodium*, fluid therap*, plasma substit*, volume replace*, plasma replace*, fluid replace*, fluid restor*, fluid resusc*, fluid expansion
Population	Humans Infant (1 to 23 months) Preschool child (2 to 5 years)	Human Infant (up to one year) Child	No limits

	Child (6 to 12 years)	Preschool child (1 to 6 years) School child (7 to 12 years)	
Publication language	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
Study design	<p>controlled.mp controlled clinical trial*.mp clinical.mp, trial*, randomi* controlled trial*.mp, double.mp, blind.mp double blind.mp placebo*.mp random*.mp single.mp single blind.mp triple.mp triple blind.mp mask*.mp controlled trial*.mp meta analysis.mp or Meta-Analysis/ clinical trial*.mp metanalysis.mp exp Research Design/ prospective*.mp, Prospective Studies/ Evaluation Studies/ Cross-Over Studies/ Follow-up Studies/ Comparative Studies/</p>	<p>controlled.mp controlled clinical trial*.mp clinical.mp, trial*, randomi* controlled trial*.mp, double.mp, blind.mp double blind.mp placebo*.mp random*.mp single.mp single blind.mp triple.mp triple blind.mp mask*.mp controlled trial*.mp meta analysis.mp or Meta-Analysis/ clinical trial*.mp metanalysis.mp exp Research Design/ prospective*.mp, Prospective Studies/ Evaluation Studies/ Cross-Over Studies/ Follow-up Studies/ Comparative Studies/</p>	<p>controlled.mp controlled clinical trial*.mp clinical.mp, trial*, randomi* controlled trial*.mp, double.mp, blind.mp double blind.mp placebo*.mp random*.mp single.mp single blind.mp triple.mp triple blind.mp mask*.mp controlled trial*.mp meta analysis.mp or Meta-Analysis/ clinical trial*.mp metanalysis.mp exp Research Design/ prospective*.mp, Prospective Studies/ Evaluation Studies/ Cross-Over Studies/ Follow-up Studies/ Comparative Studies/</p>
Limits	<p>Studies with the following keywords in the title excluded; diarrh*,gastr*,burn*,surg*oral*,traum* ORS*, cholera*, shigel*, women, caesarean, maternal, enter*, injur*, dysent*</p>	<p>Studies with the following keywords in the title excluded; diarrh*,gastr*,burn*,surg*oral*,traum* ORS*, cholera*, shigel*, women, caesarean, maternal, enter*, injur*, dysent*</p>	<p>Studies with the following keywords in the title excluded; diarrh*,gastr*,burn*,surg*oral*,traum* ORS*, cholera*, shigel*, women, caesarean, maternal, enter*, injur*, dysent*</p>