

## Appendix 1: Search terms and strategies [posted as supplied by author]

MEDLINE and CENTRAL search strategy, EMBASE search strategy

MEDLINE (OVID)

1. exp Tonsillitis/
2. tonsillit\*.tw.
3. exp Pharyngitis/
4. pharyngit\*.tw.
5. exp Laryngitis/
6. laryngit\*.tw.
7. pharyngotonsillit\*.tw.
8. nasopharyngit\*.tw.
9. rhinopharyngit\*.tw.
10. (throat\* adj3 (sore or inflam\* or infect\*)).tw.
11. exp Streptococcus/
12. Streptococcal Infections/
13. (streptococc\* or gabhs).tw.
14. ("s. pyogenes" or "s pyogenes").tw.
15. ("s. pneumoniae" or "s pneumoniae").tw.
16. or/1-15
17. steroid\*.tw,nm.
18. corticosteroid\*.tw,nm.
19. exp Glucocorticoids/
20. glucocorticoid\*.tw,nm.
21. exp Hydroxycorticosteroids/
22. hydroxycorticosteroid\*.tw,nm.
23. exp Pregnenediones/
24. hydrocortisone.tw,nm.
25. hydroxypregnenolone.tw,nm.
26. pregnenolone.tw,nm.
27. tetrahydrocortisol.tw,nm.
28. cortodoxone.tw,nm.
29. cortisone.tw,nm.
30. corticosterone.tw,nm.
31. triamcinolone.tw,nm.
32. prednisone.tw,nm.
33. prednisolone.tw.
34. paramethasone.tw,nm.
35. methylprednisolone.tw,nm.
36. dexamethasone.tw,nm.
37. clobetasol.tw,nm.
38. beclomethasone.tw,nm.

39. betamethasone.tw,nm.
40. budesonide.tw,nm.
41. (efcortisol or hydrocortone or solu-cortef).tw,nm.
42. (betnelan or betnesol).tw,nm.
43. (medrone or solu-medrone or depo-medrone).tw,nm.
44. kenalog.tw,nm.
45. (novolizer or pulmicort or symbicort).tw,nm.
46. (beclometasone or aerobec or asmabec or beclazone or becodisks or becotide or clenil modulite or qvar or becloforte).tw,nm.
47. (deflazacort or calcort).tw,nm.
48. or/17-47
49. clinical trial.mp. or clinical trial.pt. or random\*.mp. or tu.xs.
50. 16 and 48 and 49
51. limit 50 to ed=20100101-20171231

#### EMBASE (OVID)

1. exp tonsillitis/
2. tonsillit\*.tw.
3. exp pharyngitis/
4. pharyngit\*.tw.
5. exp laryngitis/
6. laryngit\*.tw.
7. pharyngotonsillit\*.tw.
8. nasopharyngit\*.tw.
9. rhinopharyngit\*.tw.
10. (throat\* adj3 (sore or inflam\* or infect\*)).tw.
11. exp streptococcus/
12. exp streptococcus infection/
13. (streptococc\* or gabhs).tw.
14. ("s. pyogenes" or "s pyogenes").tw.
15. ("s. pneumoniae" or "s pneumoniae").tw.
16. or/1-15
17. steroid\*.tw,nm.
18. corticosteroid\*.tw,nm.
19. exp glucocorticoid/
20. glucocorticoid\*.tw,nm.
21. exp hydroxycorticosteroid/
22. hydroxycorticosteroid\*.tw,nm.
23. exp pregnane derivative/
24. hydrocortisone.tw,nm.

25. hydroxypregnenolone.tw,nm.
26. pregnenolone.tw,nm.
27. tetrahydrocortisol.tw,nm.
28. cortodoxone.tw,nm.
29. cortisone.tw,nm.
30. corticosterone.tw,nm.
31. triamcinolone.tw,nm.
32. prednisone.tw,nm.
33. prednisolone.tw.
34. paramethasone.tw,nm.
35. methylprednisolone.tw,nm.
36. dexamethasone.tw,nm.
37. clobetasol.tw,nm.
38. beclomethasone.tw,nm.
39. betamethasone.tw,nm.
40. budesonide.tw,nm.
41. (efcortisol or hydrocortone or solu-cortef).tw,nm.
42. (betnelan or betnesol).tw,nm.
43. (medrone or solu-medrone or depo-medrone).tw,nm.
44. kenalog.tw,nm.
45. (novolizer or pulmicort or symbicort).tw,nm.
46. (beclometasone or aerobec or asmabec or beclazone or becodisks or becotide or clenil modulite or qvar or becloforte).tw,nm.
47. (deflazacort or calcort).tw,nm.
48. or/17-47
49. random\*.tw. OR placebo\*.mp. OR double-blind\*.tw.
50. 16 and 48 and 49
51. limit 50 to dd=20100101-20171231