

Appendix. Search strategy for MEDLINE (Ovid SP)

1. exp Sepsis/
2. exp Shock, Septic/
3. (sepsis or septic shock).mp.
4. 1 or 2 or 3
5. exp Adrenal Cortex Hormones/
6. (corticosteroid* or steroid*).mp.
7. 6 or 5
8. 4 and 7
9. ((randomized controlled trial or controlled clinical trial).pt. or randomized.ab. or placebo.ab. or clinical trials as topic.sh. or randomly.ab. or trial.ti.) not (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.
10. 8 and 9