

Online supplement: Example search strategy

Table 1: Key terms and MeSH headings used for EMBASE database search. The concepts were combined as follows: "KNEE JOINT" AND "ACUTE EVENTS"

Concepts	Search terms
KNEE JOINT	"knee adj3 (pain OR painful)" or "Knee osteoarthritis" or "knee adj3 (arthrosis)" or "knee adj3 (joint OR joints OR degenerative)" or "knee adj3 (osteoarthritis)"
ACUTE EVENTS	"exacerbation" or "flare" or "daily adj3 (pain)" or "pain AND (diary OR diaries)" or "pain adj3 (variab\$)"