

## Appendix 1: Example Search Strategy (MEDLINE)

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations and Ovid MEDLINE(R)  
<1946 to Present>

Search Strategy:

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- 1 "digital nerve\*".ti,ab.
  - 2 (thumb\* adj3 nerve\*).ti,ab.
  - 3 (finger\* adj3 nerve\*).ti,ab.
  - 4 ((hand or hands) adj3 nerve\*).ti,ab.
  - 5 (digit\* adj3 nerve\*).ti,ab.
  - 6 Peripheral Nerves/
  - 7 "peripheral nerve\*".ti,ab.
  - 8 6 or 7
  - 9 hand/ or fingers/ or thumb/
  - 10 (hand or hands or finger\* or thumb\* or digit\*).ti,ab.
  - 11 9 or 10
  - 12 8 and 11
  - 13 nerve\*.ti,ab.
  - 14 9 and 13
  - 15 digital nerve/
  - 16 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 12 or 14
  - 17 Hand/su [Surgery]
  - 18 exp Fingers/su [Surgery]
  - 19 (surgery or surgical).ti,ab.
  - 20 repair\*.ti,ab.
  - 21 sutur\*.ti,ab.
  - 22 Nerve Regeneration/
  - 23 Anastomosis, Surgical/
  - 24 (neurorrhaphy or neurorrhaphy).ti,ab.
  - 25 neurosynthesis.ti,ab.
  - 26 restor\*.ti,ab.
  - 27 reconstruct\*.ti,ab.
  - 28 (non-repair\* or nonrepair\* or non-operative or nonoperative or conservative).ti,ab.
  - 29 (non-surgical or nonsurgical).ti,ab.
  - 30 Conservative Treatment/
  - 31 injur\*.ti,ab.
  - 32 exp Hand Injuries/
  - 33 Peripheral Nerve Injuries/
  - 34 cut.ti,ab.
  - 35 (transection or transected).ti,ab.
  - 36 (damage or damaged).ti,ab.
  - 37 trauma.ti,ab.
  - 38 stitch\*.ti,ab.
  - 39 Sutures/
  - 40 17 or 18 or 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 or 27 or 28 or 29 or 30 or 31 or 32 or 33  
or 34 or 35 or 36 or 37 or 38 or 39
  - 41 (neuroma or neuromas).ti,ab.
  - 42 Neuroma/
  - 43 Sensation/
  - 44 sensation.ti,ab.
  - 45 function\*.ti,ab.
  - 46 sensory.ti,ab.
  - 47 touch.ti,ab.
  - 48 Touch/
  - 49 Touch Perception/
  - 50 "two-point discrimination".ti,ab.

51 "2-point discrimination".ti,ab.  
52 feeling.ti,ab.  
53 (numb or numbness).ti,ab.  
54 Paresthesia/  
55 paresthesia.ti,ab.  
56 "patient satisfaction".ti,ab.  
57 exp Patient Satisfaction/  
58 "quality of life".ti,ab.  
59 "Quality of Life"/  
60 (work or working or employment).ti,ab.  
61 employment/ or return to work/  
62 Thermosensing/  
63 41 or 42 or 43 or 44 or 45 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 or 54 or 55 or 56 or 57  
or 58 or 59 or 60 or 61 or 62  
64 16 and 40 and 63