

1 **Online supplement 2.**

2 S2. Search strategy for systematic review PA-COS

3 **Appendicitis**

4 "Appendix"[Mesh] OR appendix[tiab] OR appendix[ot] OR "Appendicitis"[Mesh] OR
5 "Appendectomy"[Mesh] OR appendicit*[tiab] OR appendicit*[ot] OR appendectom*[tiab] OR
6 appendectom*[ot] OR appendicectom*[tiab] OR appendicectom*[ot]

7 **Children**

8 child*[tw] OR schoolchild*[tw] OR infan*[tw] OR adolescen*[tw] OR pediatri*[tw] OR
9 paediatr*[tw] OR neonat*[tw] OR boy[tw] OR boys[tw] OR boyhood[tw] OR girl[tw] OR
10 girls[tw] OR girlhood[tw] OR youth[tw] OR youths[tw] OR baby[tw] OR babies[tw] OR
11 toddler*[tw] OR teen[tw] OR teens[tw] OR teenager*[tw] OR newborn*[tw] OR
12 postneonat*[tw] OR postnat*[tw] OR perinat*[tw] OR puberty[tw] OR preschool*[tw] OR
13 suckling*[tw] OR picu[tw] OR nicu[tw]

14 **3.2.2 Study selection**

15 Selection of studies will be performed by 2 independent reviewers (MK, JF) according to the
16 below mentioned in- and exclusion criteria. In case of disagreement between two reviewers,
17 a third independent reviewer (RG) will make the final decision.

18 *Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria:*

19 All RCTs and systematic reviews/meta-analyses reporting the outcome of treatment of acute
20 uncomplicated appendicitis will be included in this systematic review. By including systematic
21 reviews that also report on non-comparative studies we expect to identify all reported
22 treatment outcomes, including those from the relatively new field of non-operative
23 management of uncomplicated appendicitis. Publications before January 2014 will be
24 excluded. Only studies in children (<18 years of age) will be included. Studies only reporting
25 on the outcome of treatment in complex or complicated appendicitis (gangrenous
26 appendicitis, appendiceal mass, appendiceal abscess) will be excluded.

27 **3.2.3 Data extraction**

28 The two reviewers will extract the data independently using the predefined data extraction
29 form shown in Appendix A. In case of disagreement a third reviewer will make the final
30 decision. A risk of bias assessment of the individual studies is not applicable as we will not
31 be using individual study data but only the reported outcomes. As diversity in terminology will
32 be anticipated, we decided to initially report all outcome measure as mentioned in the original
33 study. Outcome measures will be mapped independently by two reviewers and in case of
34 disagreement a third reviewer will make the final decision. After data extraction of all studies
35 is completed, a meeting of the study management group will be held between to discuss
36 potential similarity between the outcome measures in order to assign an appropriate term for
37 them.