

Supplementary file 1. Demonstrating the full search strategy and the number of results for each search term. The search was performed on the 31st May 2019.

Database: AMED (Allied and Complementary Medicine) <1985 to May 2019>, Ovid MEDLINE(R) <1946 to May Week 4 2019>, Embase <1974 to 2019 May 30>

Search Strategy:

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- 1 triclosan.mp. (8754)
 - 2 anti-bacterial agents.mp. (315458)
 - 3 anti-infective agents, local.mp. (16419)
 - 4 coated materials, biocompatible.mp. (13821)
 - 5 biomimetic material.mp. (0)
 - 6 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 (350648)
 - 7 sutures.mp. (61707)
 - 8 vicryl plus.mp. (129)
 - 9 monocryl plus.mp. (20)
 - 10 PDS plus.mp. (47)
 - 11 7 or 8 or 9 or 10 (61743)
 - 12 surgical site infection.mp. (14995)
 - 13 surgical wound infection.mp. (37378)
 - 14 12 or 13 (48237)
 - 15 6 and 11 and 14 (282)
 - 16 remove duplicates from 15 (233)

Then CENTRAL search identified 75, and after duplicates removed this was 16 new. So total 249 records screened.

