

**Supplementary Table 1:** Search strategy for Medline (via PubMed) from inception to June 12, 2018.

#	Term	Hits
1	"Osteoarthritis, Knee"[MeSH]	16136
2	"Osteoarthritis"[mesh] OR osteoarthriti*[tiab] OR osteo-arthriti*[tiab] OR osteoarthro*[tiab] OR osteo-arthro*[tiab] OR degenerative arthr*[tiab] OR "degenerative joint"[tiab] OR gonarthriti*[tiab] OR gonarthro*[tiab] OR osteoarthrosis deformans[tiab]	83292
3	"Knee Joint"[mesh] OR knee*[tiab] OR "Patella"[mesh] OR patella*[tiab] OR tibio-femoral[tiab] OR patellofemoral[tiab]	149389
4	2 AND 3	31151
5	1 OR 4	32440
6	(Steroids[mh] OR adrenal cortex hormones [pharmacological action] OR steroid*[tiab] OR Corticosteroid*[tiab] OR Cortico-steroid*[tiab] OR Corticoid*[tiab] OR Corti-coid*[tiab] OR glucocorticoid*[tiab] OR Triamcinolone OR Aristocort OR Volon OR Cinonide OR Tricort* OR Kena log OR Azmacort OR Aristospan OR Tricort OR Triaderm OR Trilone OR Tristoject OR Tricortone OR Ratio-Triacomb OR Trianex OR Betamethasone OR Celestone OR Betnesol OR Dexamethasone OR Decadron OR Methylprednisolone OR Medrol OR Urbason OR Meprolone OR A-Methapred OR Depo-Medrol OR Solu-Medrol OR Depo-Medrone)	1050152
7	Synvisc*[tiab] OR Synvisc One[tiab] OR SynviscOne[tiab] OR hylan*[tiab] OR Hylan GF20[tiab] OR Hylan GF 20[tiab] OR Hylan G F 20[tiab] OR Hylan G-F 20[tiab]	482
8	6 or 7	1050581
9	5 and 8	1475
10	((((randomized controlled trial[pt] OR controlled clinical trial[pt] OR randomized[tiab] OR randomised[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR clinical trials as topic[mesh: noexp] OR randomly[tiab] OR trial[ti]) OR ((RCT[tiab] OR placebo[tiab] OR sham[tiab] OR dummy[tiab] OR single blind*[tiab] OR double blind*[tiab] OR allocated[tiab] OR allocation[tiab] OR triple blind*[tiab] OR treble blind*[tiab] OR random*[tiab])) NOT medline[sb])) NOT (animals [mh] NOT humans [mh]))	1156678
11	9 and 10	496
12	11 and eng[la]	452

**Supplementary Table 2:** Search strategy for Embase (via Ovid) from inception to June 12, 2018.

#	Searches	Hits
1	*osteoarthritis/ or (degenerative arthr\$ or osteoarthr\$ or osteo-arthr\$ or OA or osteoarthrosis deformans).ti,ab.	114492
2	*patella/ or *knee/ or (knee or knees or patella\$ or tibio-femoral or patellofemoral).ti,ab.	178601
3	*knee osteoarthritis/	17748
4	(1 and 2) or 3	41674
5	*triamcinolone/ or *betamethasone/ or *methylprednisolone/ or *dexamethasone/ or *triamcinolone hexacetonide/ or *triamcinolone acetonide/ or *methylprednisolone acetate/ or (steroid* or Corticosteroid* or Cortico-steroid* or Corticoid* or Corti-coid* or glucocorticoid* or Triamcinolone or Aristocort or Volon or Cinonide or Tricort* or Kenalog or Azmacort or Aristospan or Tricort or Triaderm or Trilone or Tristoject or Tricortone or Ratio-Triacomb or Trianex or Betamethasone or Celestone or Betnesol or Dexamethasone or Decadron or Methylprednisolone or Medrol or Urbason or Mepralone or A-Methapred or Depo-Medrol or Solu-Medrol or Depo-Medrone).ti,ab.	561922
6	(Synvisc* or Synvisc One or SynviscOne or hylan\$ or Hylan GF20 or Hylan GF 20 or Hylan G F 20 or Hylan G-F 20).ti,ab,tn.	1011
7	5 or 6	562809
8	4 and 7	2029
9	8 not ((exp animal/ or nonhuman/) not exp human/)	1902
10	limit 9 to english language	1692
11	limit 10 to (article or article in press or conference paper)	774
12	limit 10 to (yr="2016 - 2018" and (conference abstract or "conference review"))	208
13	randomized controlled trial/ or *"randomized controlled trial (topic)"/ or exp randomization/ or Single blind procedure/ or Double blind procedure/ or Triple blind procedure/ or Crossover procedure/ or Placebo/	852039
14	(RCT or placebo or sham or dummy or single blind\$ or double blind\$ or allocated or allocation or triple blind\$ or treble blind\$ or random\$).ti,ab,kw.	1584582
15	13 or 14	1825404
16	15 not ((exp animal/ or nonhuman/) not exp human/)	1555862
17	11 or 12	982
18	16 and 17	431
19	remove duplicates from 18	418

**Supplementary Table 3:** Search strategy for Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (CENTRAL) (via Ovid) from inception to June 12, 2018.

#	Searches	Hits
1	[mh "Osteoarthritis, Knee"]	3423
2	[mh Osteoarthritis] or (osteoarthriti* or osteo-arthriti* or osteoarthro* or osteo-arthro* or degenerative arthr* or "degenerative joint" or gonarthriti* or gonarthro*):ti,ab,kw	12473
3	[mh "Knee Joint"] or [mh Patella] or (knee* or patella* or tibio-femoral or patellofemoral):ti,ab,kw	20946
4	#2 and #3	7902
5	#1 or #4	7902
6	(steroid* or Corticosteroid* or Cortico-steroid* or Corticoid* or Corti-coid* or glucocorticoid* or Triamcinolone or Aristocort or Volon or Cinonide or Tricort* or Kenalog or Azmacort or Aristospan or Tricort or Triaderm or Trilone or Tristoject or Tricortone or Ratio-Triacomb or Trianex or Betamethasone or Celestone or Betnesol or Dexamethasone or Decadron or Methylprednisolone or Medrol or Urbason or Mepralone or A-Methapred or Depo-Medrol or Solu-Medrol or Depo-Medrone):ti,ab,kw	52130
7	[mh Steroids]	51851
8	(Synvisc* or Synvisc One or SynviscOne or Hylan* or Hylan GF20 or Hylan GF 20 or Hylan G F 20 or Hylan G-F 20):ti,ab,kw	146
9	#6 or #7 or #8	88181
10	#5 and #9	1011
11	#10 not (pubmed or embase):an	197
12	#11 not clinicaltrials.gov:so in Trials	24

**Supplementary Table 4:** League table for change from baseline to 6 months in pain scores.

Fixed Effects - Relative Standardized Mean Difference (95% CrI)			
<b>PBO</b>	0.29 (0.15, 0.43)	0.36 (0.22, 0.49)	0.16 (0.05, 0.26)
-0.29 (-0.43, -0.15)	<b>Hylan G-F 20</b>	0.06 (-0.03, 0.16)	-0.13 (-0.25, -0.01)
-0.36 (-0.49, -0.22)	-0.06 (-0.16, 0.03)	<b>HA</b>	-0.20 (-0.30, -0.09)
-0.16 (-0.26, -0.05)	0.13 (0.01, 0.25)	0.20 (0.09, 0.30)	<b>CS</b>

Note: Each cell represents the comparison (Relative Standardized Mean Difference (95% CrI)) of the row treatment (Intervention) versus the column treatment (Comparator).