

## Table. Search strategies

### Web of Science

1. TI = (Stroke\* or Cerebrovascular disorders or Basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease or Brain ischemia or Carotid artery diseases or Cerebral small vessel diseases or Intracranial arterial diseases or Intracranial embolism and thrombosis or Intracranial hemorrhages or Brain infarction or Stroke, lacunar or Vasospasm, intracranial or Vertebral artery dissection or Hemiplegia or Paresis or Brain injuries or Brain injury, chronic)
2. AB = (Stroke\* or Cerebrovascular disorders or Basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease or Brain ischemia or Carotid artery diseases or Cerebral small vessel diseases or Intracranial arterial diseases or Intracranial embolism and thrombosis or Intracranial hemorrhages or Brain infarction or Stroke, lacunar or Vasospasm, intracranial or Vertebral artery dissection or Hemiplegia or Paresis or Brain injuries or Brain injury, chronic)
3. 1 or 2
4. TI = (Vagus nerve or Vagal nerve or Vagus nerve stimul\* or Vagal nerve stimul\*)
5. AB = (Vagus nerve or Vagal nerve or Vagus nerve stimul\* or Vagal nerve stimul\*)
6. 4 or 5
7. TI = (Upper limb\* or upper extremit\* or arm\* or shoulder\* or hand\* or elbow\* or forearm\* or wrist\* or finger\* or axilla\*)
8. AB = (Upper limb\* or upper extremit\* or arm\* or shoulder\* or hand\* or elbow\* or forearm\* or wrist\* or finger\* or axilla\*)
9. 7 or 8
10. 3 and 6 and 9

### Embase (via Ovid)

1. cerebrovascular disorders/ or exp basal ganglia cerebrovascular disease/ or exp brain ischemia/ or exp carotid artery diseases/ or exp intracranial arterial diseases/ or exp intracranial arteriovenous malformations/ or exp "intracranial embolism and thrombosis"/ or exp intracranial hemorrhages/ or stroke/ or exp brain infarction/ or vasospasm, intracranial/ or vertebral artery dissection/
2. (stroke or poststroke or post-stroke or cerebrovasc\$ or brain vasc\$ or cerebral vasc\$ or cva\$ or apoplex\$ or SAH).tw.
3. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracran\$ or intracerebral) adj5 (isch?emi\$ or infarct\$ or thrombo\$ or emboli\$ or oclus\$)).tw.
4. ((brain\$ or cerebr\$ or cerebell\$ or intracerebral or intracranial or subarachnoid) adj5 (haemorrhage\$ or hemorrhage\$ or haematoma\$ or hematoma\$ or bleed\$)).tw.
5. hemiplegia/ or exp paresis/
6. (hemipleg\$ or hemipar\$ or paresis or paretic).tw.
7. 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6
8. exp vagus nerve/
9. (Vagus nerve or Vagal nerve or Vagus nerve stimul\$ or Vagal nerve stimul\$).tw.
10. 8 or 9
11. exp upper limb/
12. (Upper limb\$ or upper extremit\$ or arm\$ or shoulder\$ or hand\$ or elbow\$ or forearm\$ or wrist\$ or finger\$ or axilla\$).tw.
13. 11 or 12
14. 7 and 10 and 13

### CENTRAL (Cochrane library)

1. MeSH descriptor: [Cerebrovascular Disorders] explode all trees
2. MeSH descriptor: [Basal Ganglia Cerebrovascular Disease] explode all trees
3. MeSH descriptor: [Brain Ischemia] explode all trees
4. MeSH descriptor: [Carotid Artery Diseases] explode all trees

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5. MeSH descriptor: [Intracranial Arterial Diseases] explode all trees
  6. MeSH descriptor: [Intracranial Arteriovenous Malformations] explode all trees
  7. MeSH descriptor: [Intracranial Embolism and Thrombosis] explode all trees
  8. MeSH descriptor: [Intracranial Hemorrhages] explode all trees
  9. MeSH descriptor: [Stroke] explode all trees
  10. MeSH descriptor: [Brain Infarction] explode all trees
  11. MeSH descriptor: [Vasospasm, Intracranial] explode all trees
  12. MeSH descriptor: [Vertebral Artery Dissection] explode all trees
  13. stroke or poststroke or post - stroke or cerebrovasc\* or brain vasc\* or cerebral vasc\* or cva\* or apoplex\* or SAH
  14. (brain\* or cerebr\* or cerebell\* or intracran\* or intracerebral) near/5 (isch?emi\* or infarct\* or thrombo\* or emboli\* or occlus\*)
  15. (brain\* or cerebr\* or cerebell\* or intracerebral or intracranial or subarachnoid) near/5 (haemorrhage\* or hemorrhage\* or haematoma\* or hematoma\* or bleed\*)
  16. MeSH descriptor: [Hemiplegia] explode all trees
  17. MeSH descriptor: [Paresis] explode all trees
  18. hemipleg\* or hemipar\* or paresis or paretic
  19. (1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6 OR 7 OR 8 OR 9 OR 10 OR 11 OR 12 OR 13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18)
  20. MeSH descriptor: [Vagus Nerve] explode all trees
  21. Vagus nerve or Vagal nerve or Vagus nerve stimul\* or Vagal nerve stimul\*
  22. (20 OR 21)
  23. MeSH descriptor: [Upper Extremity] explode all trees
  24. Upper limb\* or upper extremit\* or arm\* or shoulder\* or hand\* or elbow\* or forearm\* or wrist\* or finger\* or axilla\*
  25. (23 OR 24)
  26. (19 AND 22 AND 25)

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Physiotherapy evidence database (PEDro)

Abstract and Title: vagus nerve stimulation

Body part: upper arm, shoulder or shoulder girdle/forearm or elbow/hand or wrist

Method: Clinical trial

All search terms in the title or abstract were combined with body part descriptors using AND operator.

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