

Appendix 1 (as submitted by the authors): Search strategy

1) Antiplatelet agents

Search strategy: ((((((carotid stenosis[MeSH Terms]) AND stroke[MeSH Terms]) OR ischemic attack, transient[MeSH Terms]) OR symptomatic) AND carotid endarterectomy[MeSH Terms]) OR carotid stenting) AND antiplatelet)

- search results 470 abstracts reviewed with 31 papers included

2) Statins

((((((carotid stenosis[MeSH Terms]) AND stroke[MeSH Terms]) OR ischemic attack, transient[MeSH Terms]) OR symptomatic) AND carotid endarterectomy[MeSH Terms]) OR carotid stenting) AND statins)

- search results 180 abstracts reviewed with 17 papers included

3) Timing of intervention

((((((carotid stenosis[MeSH Terms]) AND stroke[MeSH Terms]) OR ischemic attack, transient[MeSH Terms]) OR symptomatic) AND carotid endarterectomy[MeSH Terms]) OR carotid stenting) AND timing)

- search results 151 abstracts reviewed with 20 papers included

4) Carotid endarterectomy vs carotid stenting

((((((((((carotid stenosis[MeSH Terms]) AND stroke[MeSH Terms]) OR ischemic attack, transient[MeSH Terms]) OR symptomatic) AND carotid endarterectomy[MeSH Terms]) AND carotid stenting))) AND randomized controlled trial)

- search results 282 abstracts reviewed with 20 papers included