

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): MEDLINE search strategy

1. randomized controlled trial.pt.
2. controlled clinical trial.pt.
3. randomi#ed.ab.
4. placebo.ab.ti.
5. drug therapy.fs.
6. randomly.ab.ti.
7. trial.ab.ti.
8. groups.ab.ti.
9. or/1-8
10. (animals not (humans and animals)).sh.
11. 9 not 10
12. dorsalgia.ti.ab.
13. exp Back Pain/
14. backache.ti.ab.
15. exp Low Back Pain/
16. (lumbar adj pain).ti.ab.
17. coccyx.ti.ab.
18. coccydynia.ti.ab.
19. sciatica.ti.ab.
20. sciatic neuropathy/
21. spondylosis.ti.ab.
22. lumbago.ti.ab.
23. back disorder\$.ti.ab.
24. or/12-23
25. exp Spine/
26. discitis.ti.ab.
27. exp Spinal Diseases/
28. (disc adj degeneration).ti.ab.
29. (disc adj prolapse).ti.ab.
30. (disc adj herniation).ti.ab.
31. spinal fusion.sh.
32. spinal neoplasms.sh.
33. (facet adj joints).ti.ab.
34. intervertebral disk.sh.
35. postlaminectomy.ti.ab.
36. arachnoiditis.ti.ab.
37. (failed adj back).ti.ab.
38. or/25-37
39. exp Constriction, Pathologic/
40. limit 39 to yr=1976 - 1982
41. exp Lumbar Vertebrae/
42. limit 41 to yr=1966 - 1982
43. exp Spinal Canal/
44. limit 43 to yr=1966 - 1982
45. exp Spinal Diseases/
46. limit 45 to yr=1966 - 1982
47. exp Spinal Stenosis/
48. spinal stenosis.mp.
49. (lumbar adj5 stenosis).mp.
50. (spin* adj5 stenosis).mp.
51. neurogenic claudication.mp.
52. exp Spinal Osteophytosis/
53. exp Spondylosis/
54. (lumb* adj5 spondyl*).mp.
55. exp Cauda Equina/
56. lumbar radicular pain.mp.
57. 40 or 42 or 44 or 46 or 47 or 48 or 49 or 50 or 51 or 52 or 53 or 54 or 55 or 56
58. exp Anticonvulsants/
59. (anticonvulsant* or anti convulsant* or anti-convulsant* or antiepileptic* or anti epileptic* or anti-epileptic*).mp.
60. carbamazepine.mp.
61. exp Carbamazepine/
62. oxcarbazepine.mp.
63. gabapentin.mp.
64. levetiracetam.mp.
65. pregabalin.mp.
66. phenytoin.mp.
67. lacosamide.mp.
68. lamotrigine.mp.
69. (valproic acid OR valproate OR sodium valproate).mp.
70. tiagabin.mp.
71. topiramate.mp.
72. clonazepam.mp.
73. methylphenobarbital.mp.
74. phenobarbital.mp.
75. exp Phenobarbital/
76. primidone.mp.
77. barbexalone.mp.
78. metharbital.mp.
79. ethotoin.mp.
80. diphenylhydantoin.mp.
81. mephenytoin.mp.
82. fosphenytoin.mp.
83. paramethadione.mp.
84. trimethadione.mp.
85. ethadione.mp.
86. ethosuximide.mp.
87. phensuximide.mp.
88. mesuximide.mp.
89. rufinamide.mp.
90. eslicarbazepine.mp.
91. valpromide.mp.
92. aminobutyric acid.mp.
93. Vigabatrin.mp.
94. progabide.mp.
95. sultiame.mp.
96. phenacemide.mp.
97. pheneturide.mp.
98. zonisamide.mp.
99. stiripentol.mp.
100. carisbamate.mp.
101. retigabine.mp.
102. perampanel.mp.
103. brivaracetam.mp.
104. beclamide.mp.
105. or/58-104
106. 24 or 38 or 57
107. 11 and 105 and 106