

## Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors): Search strategy

### Source: PubMed

Searched on: September 12, 2014

Results: 639

Search	Query	Results
#1	low* tidal[Title/Abstract]	7085
#2	protective ventilation[Title/Abstract]	544
#3	protective mechanical ventilation[Title/Abstract]	110
#4	#1 OR #2 OR #3	7516
#5	(surgery[Title/Abstract]) OR surgical[Title/Abstract]	1251945
#6	((operati*[Title/Abstract]) OR postoperati*[Title/Abstract]) OR post-operati*[Title/Abstract]	883551
#7	((anaesthesia[Title/Abstract]) OR anesthesia[Title/Abstract]) OR anaesthetic[Title/Abstract]) OR anesthetic[Title/Abstract]	203293
#8	#5 OR #6 OR #7	1883440
#9	(((((randomized controlled trial [pt]) OR groups [tiab]) OR trial [tiab]) OR placebo [tiab]) OR controlled clinical trial [pt]) OR randomized [tiab]) OR randomly [tiab])) NOT ((animals [mh] NOT humans [mh]))))	1737455
#10	#4 AND #8 AND #9	639

### Source: Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials

Searched on: September 12, 2014

Results: 67

Search	Query	Results
#1	"low tidal" or "lower tidal" or "protective ventilation" or "protective mechanical ventilation":ti,ab,kw	161
#2	surgery or surgical or operati* or postoperati* or post-operati* or anaesthesia or anesthesia or anaesthetic or anesthetic	166619
#3	#1 and #2 in Trials	67

Appendix to: Gu WJ, Wang F, Liu JC. Effect of lung-protective ventilation with lower tidal volumes on clinical outcomes among patients undergoing surgery: a meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *CMAJ* 2014. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.141005.

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**Source: Embase**

**Searched on:** September 12, 2014

**Results: 58**

<b>Search</b>	<b>Query</b>	<b>Results</b>
#1	'low tidal'	1039
#2	'lower tidal'	268
#3	'protective ventilation'	882
#4	'protective mechanical ventilation'	180
#5	#1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4	2079
#6	'surgery'/exp OR surgery	4650181
#7	surgical	1307331
#8	'operation'/exp OR operation	3610209
#9	operative	286343
#10	postoperative	706335
#11	postoperation	2315
#12	'post operation'	3200
#13	'post operative'	65743
#14	'anaesthesia'/exp OR anaesthesia	337615
#15	'anesthesia'/exp OR anesthesia	378072
#16	'anesthetic'/exp OR anesthetic	281635
#17	'anaesthetic'/exp OR anaesthetic	250370
#18	#6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17	5329549
#19	#5 AND #18	889
#20	#19 AND [randomized controlled trial]/lim AND [humans]/lim	58