

Supplemental material 1. Search strategies used in the respective databases.

### **MeSH terms and key-words**

Rotator cuff, Shoulder, Shoulder joint, Rehabilitat\*, Physiotherapy, Physical Therapy, Immobilization, Stiffness, Accelerat\*, Sling.

### **Database: EBSCO= AMED, CINAHL, SPORTDiscus**

#### **Search Strategy:**

S1 = Rotator Cuff

S2= Shoulder

S3= Rehabilitat\*

S4= Physiother\*

S5= Physical Therapy

S6= Immobilization

S7= Stiffness

S8= Accelerat\*

S9= S1 OR S2

S10= S3 OR S4 OR S5

S11= S6 OR S7

S12= S9 AND S10 AND S11

### **Database: EMBASE**

#### **Search Strategy:**

1= \*rotator cuff/

2= shoulder/

3= rehabilitation/ or therapy/

4= physiotherapy/

5= physical therapy.mp.

6= immobilization/

7= Stiffness.mp. or rigidity/

8= 1 or 2

9= 3 or 4 or 5

10= 6 or 7

11= 8 and 9 and 10

**Database: Cochrane**

**Search strategy:**

#1 = Rotator Cuff

#2= Shoulder

#3= Rehabilitat\*

#4= Physiother\*

#5= Physical Therapy

#6= Immobilization

#7= Stiffness

#8= #1 OR #2

#9= #3 OR #4 OR #5

#10= #6 OR #7

#11= #8 AND #9 AND #10

## Database: LILACS

### Search Strategy:

The screenshot shows the LILACS database search interface. At the top left is the logo for 'vhi virtual health library'. The main heading is 'Database search'. Below this, the search parameters are displayed: 'Database : LILACS', 'Search on : Rotator Cuff [Words] and Rehabilitation [Words] and Stiffness [Words]', and 'References found : 0'. A section titled 'Refine the search' includes a dropdown menu for 'Database : LILACS' and a link for 'Advanced form'. The search strategy is detailed in a table with two columns: 'Search' and 'in field'. The strategy consists of three terms: 'Rotator Cuff' (in field: Words), 'Shoulder' (in field: Words), and 'Rehabilitation' (in field: Words). The terms are connected by 'or' and 'and' operators. Below the table are buttons for 'CONFIG', 'CLEAR', and 'SEARCH'. At the bottom, it states 'Search engine: iAH v2.6 powered by WWWISIS' and 'BIREME/PAHO/WHO - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information'.

Database : LILACS

Search on : Rotator Cuff [Words] and Rehabilitation [Words] and Stiffness [Words]

References found : 0

Refine the search

Database : LILACS [Advanced form](#)

	Search	in field	
1	Rotator Cuff	Words	index
2	or	Shoulder	Words  index
3	and	Rehabilitation	Words  index

[CONFIG](#) [CLEAR](#) [SEARCH](#)

Search engine: [iAH](#) v2.6 powered by [WWWISIS](#)

BIREME/PAHO/WHO - Latin American and Caribbean Center on Health Sciences Information


## Database: Medline

### Search Strategy:

"rotator cuff"[MeSH Terms] OR ("shoulder"[MeSH Terms] OR "shoulder"[All Fields]) AND ("physical therapy modalities"[MeSH Terms] OR "physiotherapy"[All Fields]) AND "immobilization"[MeSH Terms]

## Database: PEDro

### Search strategy:



PHYSIOTHERAPY EVIDENCE DATABASE

PEDro, the Physiotherapy Evidence Database, is a free database of randomised trials, systematic reviews and clinical practice guidelines in physiotherapy. You can search the database for bibliographic details, and sometimes full text, of trials, reviews and guidelines using this Advanced Search page or the [Simple Search page](#). PEDro is produced by the Centre for Evidence-Based Physiotherapy at The George Institute for Global Health. For more information please visit the [PEDro home-page](#).

[Home](#) [New Search \(Simple\)](#) [New Search \(Advanced\)](#) [Search Help](#)

Abstract & Title:

Therapy:

Problem:

Body Part:

Subdiscipline:

Topic:

Method:

Author/Association:

Title Only:

Source:


Published Since:  [YYYY]


New records added since:  [DD/MM/YYYY]

Score of at least:  [10]

Return:  records at a time

When Searching:  Match all search terms (AND)  
 Match any search term (OR)

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for Global Health

Affiliated with  
 THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

The database was last updated on 2 March 2015 (this includes records added or amended since 2 February 2015).  
The next update is planned for Tuesday 7 April 2015. The total number of records on the database is 29 648.  
[Contact us](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Fair use statement](#)

**Database: Scielo**

**Search Strategy:**

(Rotator cuff Tears) OR (Shoulder) AND (Rehabilitat\*) OR (Physiother\*) OR (Physical Therapy) AND (Immobilization) OR (Stiffness)

**Database: SCOPUS**

**Search Strategy:**

TITLE-ABS-KEY(Rotator cuff) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(Shoulder) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(Rehabilitat\*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(Physiother\*) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY(Physical Therapy) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(Immobilization)

**Database: Web of Knowledge (320)**

**Search Strategy**

#1 = Rotator Cuff

#2= Shoulder

#3= Rehabilitat\*

#4= Physiother\*

#5= Physical Therapy

#6= Immobilization

#7= Stiffness

#8= #1 OR #2

#9= #3 OR #4 OR #5

#10= #6 OR #7

#11= #8 AND #9 AND #10